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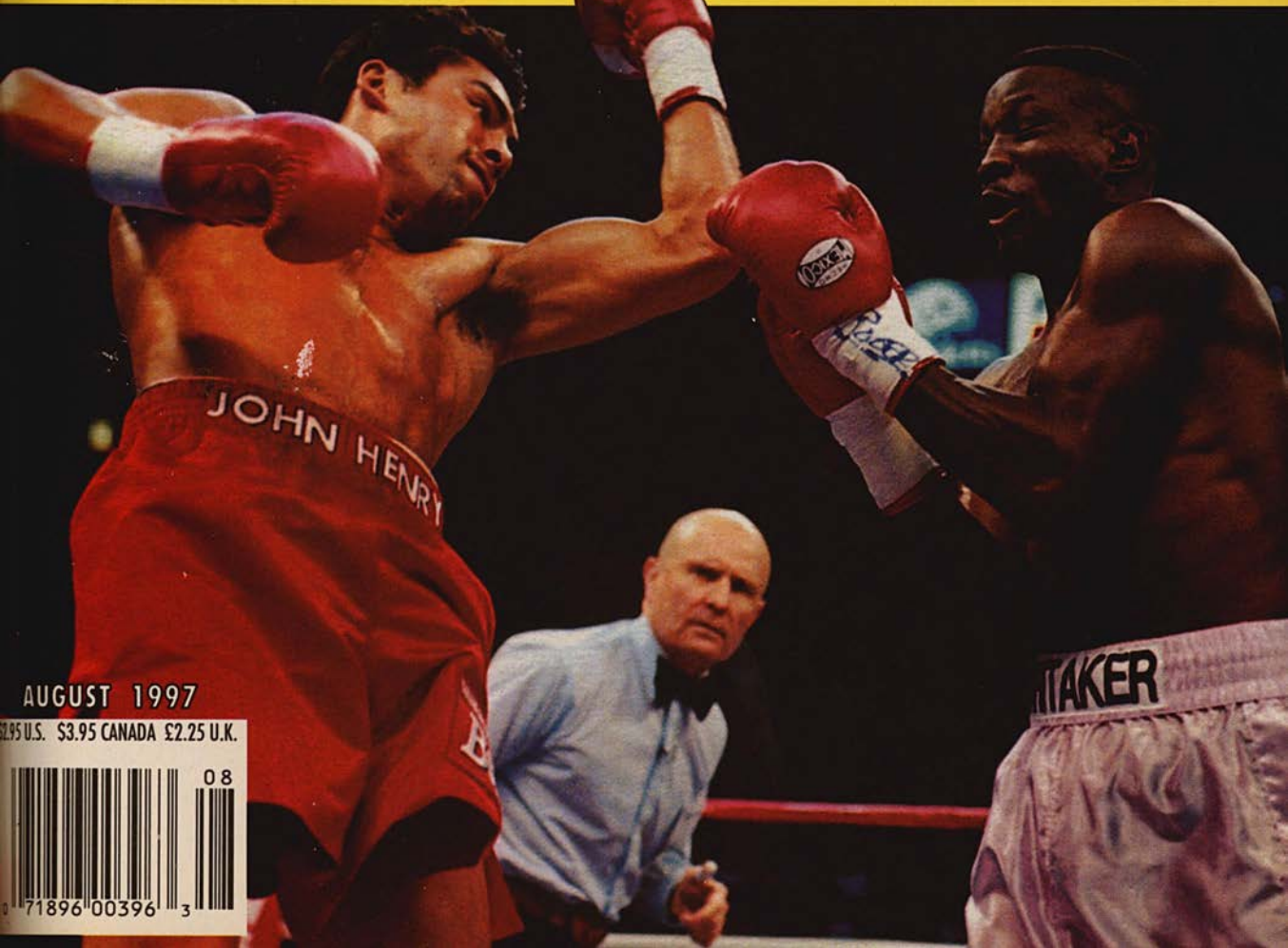

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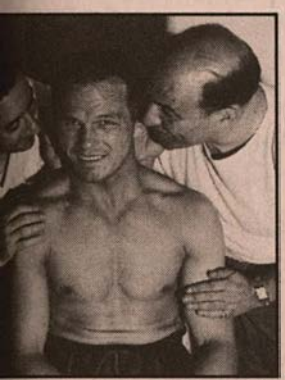

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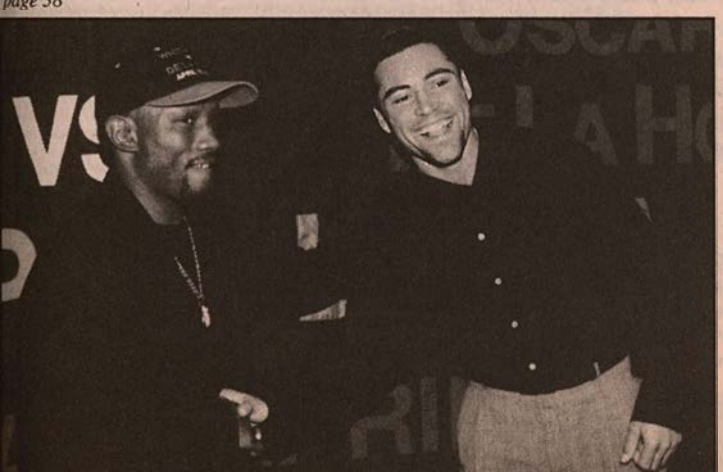

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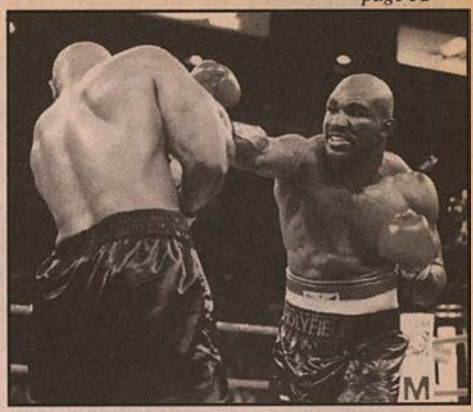

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RINGSIDE

Every time I make a change at the top of THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings *(see page 13)*, we have to order a new belt, which we present to the best fighter in boxing. This has become a costly tradition, and my boss is beginning to wonder if the beltmaker isn't a cousin of mine or a moonlighting bookmaker to whom I owe a year's worth of salary.

First we ordered a belt for Pernell Whitaker, who, with his mastery of Julio Cesar Chavez, clearly established himself as number one. Then Whitaker slumped about the same time Roy Jones began stringing together dazzling performances, so I ordered a new belt. (No, "Sweet Pea" didn't have to give his back.) March and April brought further complications: Jones was disqualified against Montell Griffin, and Oscar De La Hoya, who had been rated second, outpointed Whitaker. After a lengthy internal debate, several changes of mind, and even a soliloquy or two, I dialed the beltmaker again. He was happy to hear from me.

De La Hoya is the new pound-for-pound leader. If you find this perplexing, I understand. After all, on my card, he lost to Whitaker by a point *(see story on page 38)*. Moreover, should I have penalized Jones for losing his cool in a fight he was en route to winning? There are no easy answers. Worse yet, this is the pound-for-pound forecast: Likely to remain cloudy for the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately, De La Hoya and Jones are never going to clear up the confusion by fighting each other. In all likelihood, "The Golden Boy" will end his career at middleweight, where Jones began his. Secondly, if De La Hoya and Whitaker engage in a rematch, it won't be until next year. Actually, that's a good thing. An order for yet another new belt would probably land me a transfer and an assignment as the editor of *Siberia Weekly*.

Jones and De La Hoya, and Whitaker, too, for that matter, are exceptional talents. (How's that for a news flash?) How much pound-for-pound weight, then, do I give the fact that Jones, by no fault of his own, has been facing unexceptional opposition, while timing, luck, and frequent division-jumping have provided De La Hoya with one megafight after another? Ultimately, that was exactly what clinched my decision to make the change. While Jones, who remains relatively unestablished at 175 pounds, was frustrated into a DQ by the tricky Griffin, De La Hoya, having also risen in weight, took on the very best a primed Whitaker had to offer and, at least according to three respected judges and about half of my colleagues, fought well enough to deserve a decision victory.

If I don't sound particularly convincing, it's because I'm not really convinced myself. Maybe I should declare the number-one spot vacant. Nah, that would be the wimpy way out. I can live with my decision to elevate De La Hoya. But here's a warning: If his next three bouts are who-cares defenses against David Kamau, Hector Camacho, and Patrick Charpentier, I'll hold him to the same standards that have applied to Jones. In this ongoing debate, quality of competition counts for a lot.

Pound-for-pound has me spinning round and round. The only guy who is enjoying this is the beltmaker.

***

I apologize for a mistake on page 49 of the June '97 issue. The photo identified as John C. Heenan was actually Jake Kilrain.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 76, No. 8 August 1997

The RING

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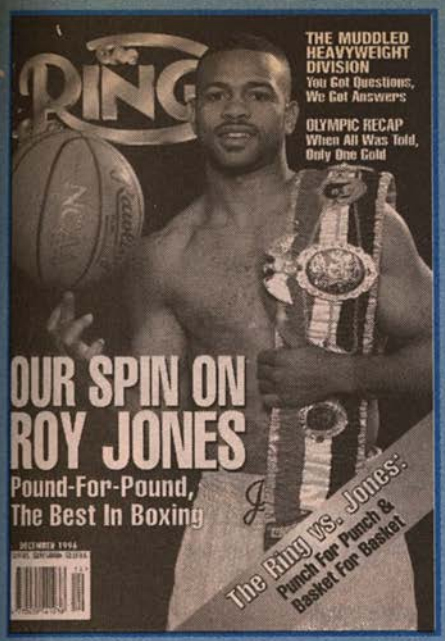

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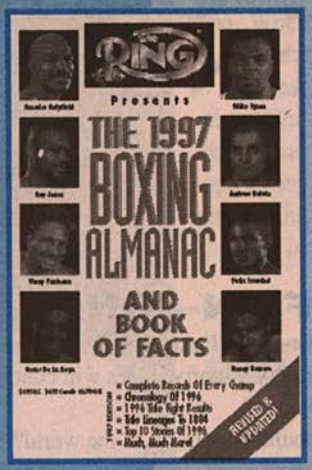

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

THE GRIFFIN-JONES CONTROVERSY

My advice to anyone who fights Roy Jones: The first good punch he lands, fall down and cover the back of your head. Don't worry, Jones will continue to hit you, prompting the referee to disqualify him. Bingo—you win!

The best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world? Give me a break.

BILL SPENCE
Muncie, IN

I just got through watching Jones-Griffin, and like most people, I question the way the title changed hands.

After eight very strange rounds of Jones fighting like it was *his* pro debut, and not David Reid's, he finally put together a good combination that had Griffin on the run. Griffin voluntarily went to one knee, and yes, Jones did hit him with a grazing right and a short hook. When referee Tony Perez showed up to begin the count, Griffin looked at him and went down with no intention of getting up.

Should he be champion? Hell no! He should be given an Academy Award for best actor in a world title fight. What he did was the act of a quitter and a coward.

Maybe this was the spark Jones needs to get serious and hungry again. I wouldn't pay one cent to see anybody else in the light heavyweight division. Griffin vs. Virgil Hill? Zzzzzz ....

JEFF STEEN
Seattle, WA

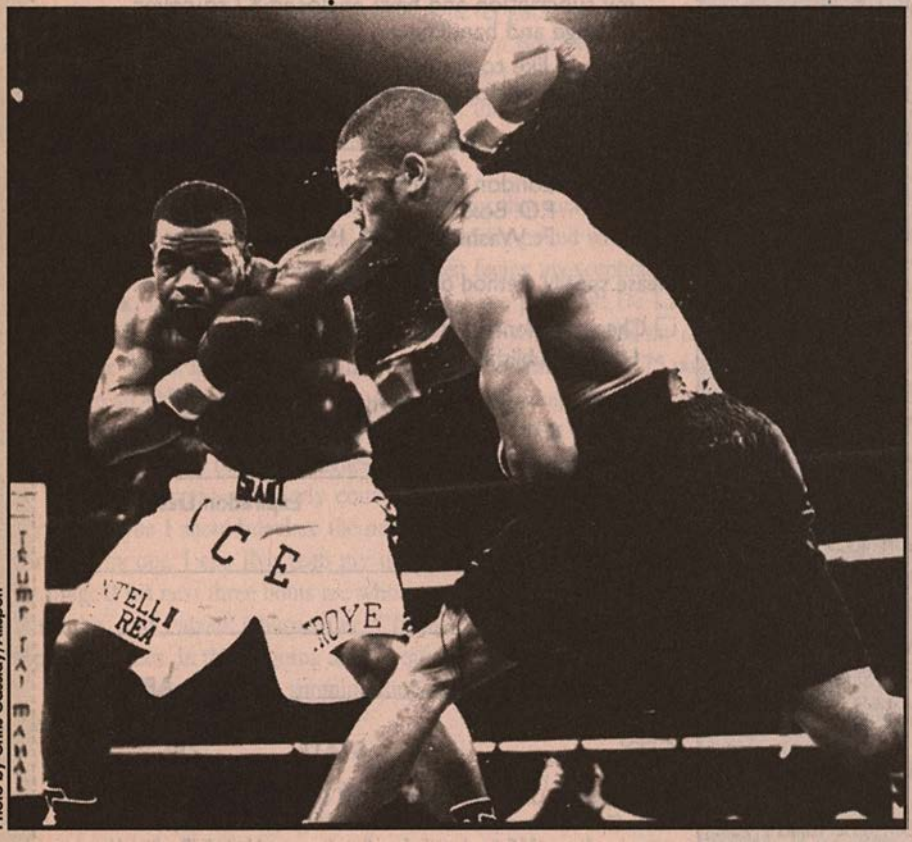


Photo by Chris Cassidy/Allsport

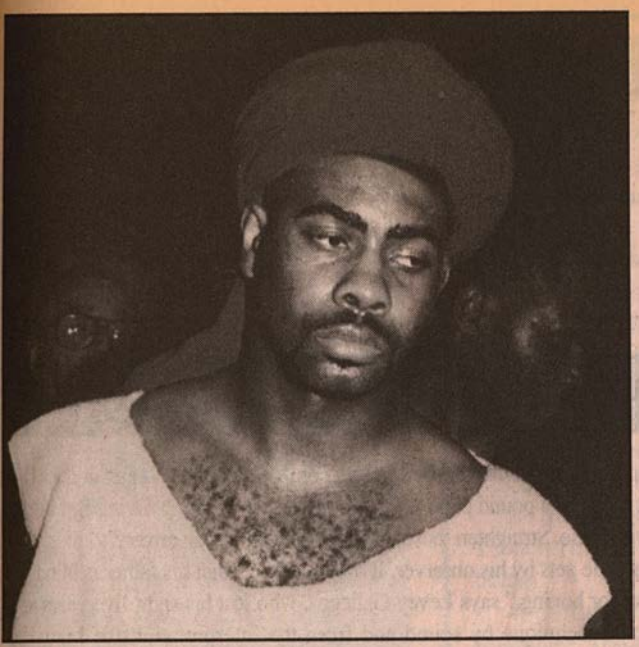
Did Montell Griffin earn the WBC light heavyweight title, or did Roy Jones give it to him by getting disqualified? The fight has sparked plenty of controversy. A rematch will likely settle the issue.

Jones must fight that ring robbery in a court of law. That blotch just cannot remain on his illustrious record. It must be erased no matter what it takes!

MELVIN SIMS
Brooklyn, NY

WINDY CITY STINKERS

I was one of the fans unfortunate enough to have watched the Michael Moorer-Vaughn Bean title fight on Showtime. It was a travesty. I couldn't help but notice the similarity in style between Bean and another short, stocky Chicago-based fighter, Montell Griffin. God forbid there is some trainer in Chicago teaching young men to box in



Undeserving heavyweight title challenger Vaughn Bean put viewers to sleep with his performance against Michael Moorer. Still, Bean almost stole the title, losing a majority decision.

this manner. Watching Bean and Griffin refusing to lead, running and holding, stabbing and grabbing is so boring, it's annoying. Why Nevada judges favor this sort of safety-first, pitty-pat style is beyond me. (One judge had Bean even on points with Moorer, and Griffin has twice decisioned James Toney.)

I don't blame the fighters; they're only doing what they were taught. But if we fans don't hold the networks and promoters accountable for using these yawn-producers, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Anyone who pays good American money to watch guys like Griffin and Bean should have their heads candled.

HUGH M. GILSON
Pismo Beach, CA

ALPHABET OVERDOSE

The WBA, WBO, WBC, IBF, IBO, IBA, WBF, IBC ... When will it end? I can't take it anymore. The proliferation of alphabet soup organizations has made a mockery of what should be considered the truest sport on earth.

The only thing that frustrates me more than the alphabet groups is the commissions, promoters, and TV networks that continue to give these groups exposure. Okay, I'll admit the WBC, IBF, and to some extend the WBO are more credible than the rest. But why can't we have one true world champion in each weight class?

If there's an "elite" or "super" champion in each division, the individual alphabet titlists can keep their belts. I realize this wouldn't be easy to implement, but the Boxing Writers Association of America would be the ideal body to pull it off.

CHRIS A. SCHOFIELD
Kentville, Nova Scotia

UNFAIR CRITICISM

I was astonished to come across trainer Don Turner's attack on the great Julio Cesar Chavez in your May '97 edition ("The Ring's Questions Of The Month"). Turner not only discredited the champion's fighting ability, but maligned his character and courage. How could you have allowed this kind of character assassination by a nobody like Turner?

Chavez has beaten all of the top junior lightweights and lightweights of his era, and the majority of the junior welterweights, too. When Angelo Dundee was asked, "Who was the toughest fighter of them all?" he answered Chavez.

I would like to see your magazine run an article telling the truth about Chavez. List his top wins and give credit where credit is due. Some young people read THE RING, and I would hate to think one of my grandsons would get the wrong impression about a great fighter like Chavez.

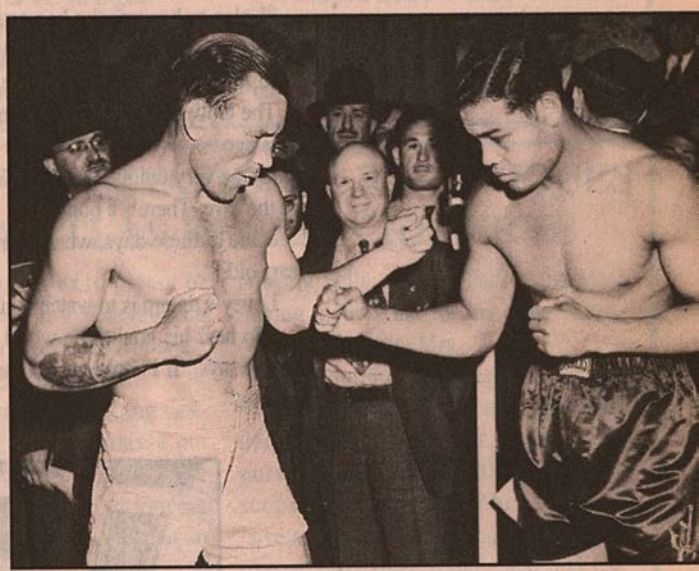
P.S.: No, I'm not of Mexican descent.

ALBERT KELLINGTON
Lino Lakes, MN

BIG AND ONLY BIG

As an engineer who has viewed, participated in, analyzed, and studied boxing for many years, I see a disturbing pattern unfolding: Champions are looking only for "big" fights.

If I'm not mistaken, years ago, boxers plied their trade for many years to gather experience. Sometimes the best were overlooked or simply avoided because they were viewed as too great a threat. A fighter with 30 or 40 bouts was still considered a journeyman. Contrast that with today's boxing world, where young champions like Oscar De La Hoya (after beating Miguel Angel Gonzalez) and Arturo Gatti (after beating Tracy Patterson for a second time) said they wanted nothing but "big" fights.



If Joe Louis had insisted on big fights, and only big fights, he never would've taken on challengers like Jack Roper, a charter member of "The Brown Bomber's" Bum of the Month Club.

Granted, every fighter wants to be viewed as great. But every fight cannot be a defining moment. Joe Louis had a Bum of the Month Club. He fought everyone. I'm not saying we need to go back to those days, but let's have our champions face the division's best in competitive fights. When the time comes, the defining moments will materialize.

JULIAN M. SAVAGE
Madison, AL ■

ROUND ONE

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Martin Gallegos is shadowboxing near his father in the family room of their Las Vegas home. The 10-year-old appears minuscule next to his 300-pound papa.

"Keep that chin down. Keep a wide base. Straighten those arms out. Straight as an arrow."

Martin quickly adheres, knowing little gets by his observer. It doesn't matter that his father is blind.

"I guess you can say I have a feel for boxing," says Levey Gallegos, who lost his sight five years ago from diabetes. He analyzes his son's technique by sound and from the interpretations of his wife, Bernice.

Martin, a natural southpaw, is the only amateur boxer in Nevada history to win a regional tournament and qualify for the national Silver Gloves. He was named Best Prospect at the 1996 Nevada Junior Olympics.

"I plan to become the heavyweight champion of the world so I can buy my dad some new eyes and my family a new house," says Martin, who was once trained by Roger Mayweather. "I wish my dad could see real bad, but I don't like to think about it. I'll start to cry."

The Gallegos story touched manager Carl King, the adopted son of Don King, who met Martin two years ago.

"It's a very unique family," King says. "Being physically challenged the way the father is, you could see the love. There's a bond.

"One of these days, when Martin makes it big, I'll tell everybody, 'I knew this kid when he was eight years old.'"

Levey's dream is to watch it all happen.

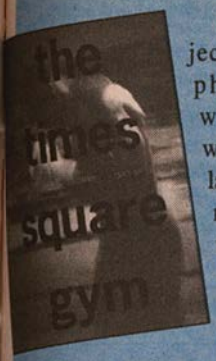
"To hear his goal to be world champ, I have no doubt in my mind he'll achieve that," he says. "But then he says, 'If I could get you new eyes, you can see me and tell me what you think.' Tears would start flowing."

–Tim Graham

Photo by Ethan Miller

Levey Gallegos and powerpunching son Martin

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



Boxing is a subject that attracts photographers with black-and-white film and lazy f-stops. Film noir gyms with taped heavybags, handwritten signs, sweaty fighters, and crusty trainers are a visual feast of emotion and subdued violence. Boxing is also a subject that attracts writers who, because of the sport's timeless quality, find solace that their cliches will be embraced as insight.

The Times Square Gym (Evan Publishing) is a photobook in which fresh approaches to chronicling the sport are never considered. Photographer John Goodman places more attention to his dark, grainy, blurred technique than to substance. Outside of his portraits of gym owner Jimmy Glenn and trainer Willie Dunne, the photographs reveal little about the subjects. The text is no better. Writer Pete Hamill serves up a Runyonesque narrative that spends more time rambling about imaginary black bluesmen and the old-time boxing scene than ever describing what made New York City's Times Square Gym (which closed in 1993) distinct and worthy of being written about in the first place.

For an 80-page, 9x12 paperback that costs $29.95, *The Times Square Gym* is best summed up by the old joke about the two old ladies who one day eat at an expensive and overrated Catskills restaurant: "The food is terrible," one says. "Yes," the other agrees, "and such small portions!"

–Roberto Santiago

MERCHANT'S MOST MEMORABLE

As part of its celebration of 25 years of boxing, HBO asked longtime analyst Larry Merchant to compile a top-10 list of the network's most memorable—but not necessarily best—bouts. We asked Merchant to add a brief comment on each selection. His list:

1. Marvin Hagler KO 3 Thomas Hearns: Nobody breathed for eight minutes

2. Buster Douglas KO 10 Mike Tyson: Upset of the century

3. Sugar Ray Leonard KO 14 Thomas Hearns: Exceeded great expectations

4. Arturo Gatti KO 6 Wilson Rodriguez: Truth kayos fiction

5. Riddick Bowe W 12 Evander Holyfield: Round of the decade

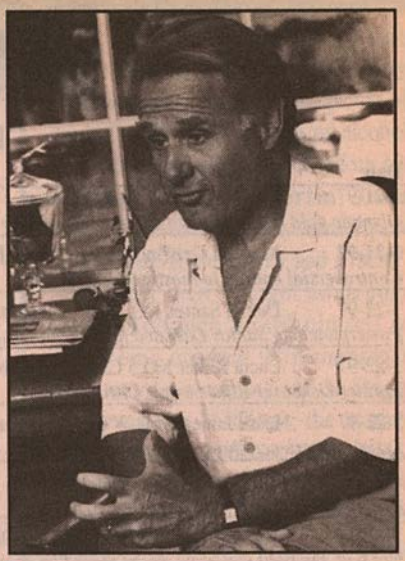
6. Aaron Pryor KO 14 Alexis Arguello: Survival of the strongest

7. Evander Holyfield W 12 Riddick Bowe: Close encounters of the third kind

8. Julio Cesar Chavez KO 12 Meldrick Taylor: Referee kayos winner

9. Riddick Bowe W Disq. 7 Andrew Golota: It was a riot

10. Wilfredo Gomez KO 14 Lupe Pintor: War of the little giants



Merchant: Hagler-Hearns most memorable

THE FIVE MOTIVATIONAL TECHNIQUES TEDDY ATLAS KEEPS IN RESERVE

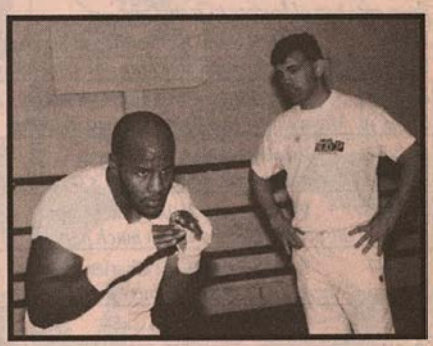
5. Whipping out an 8x10 glossy of Halle Berry: "This lady is in your dressing room and wants to meet you. But she's leaving after one more round, so ... "

4. Pulling a sports book betting ticket from his wallet: "Look at this: I put 10 grand on the other guy. If you hate me now as much as you did in training camp, you'll knock this guy out just so I'll lose my shirt!"

3. Donning a raincoat and opening an umbrella: "Indoor fight my ass! It's starting to drizzle, and the weather report calls for downpours any minute. The ref just might call this fight—and we haven't batted in the fifth inning yet!"

2. Setting up a slide projector and video screen in ring-center: "You're boring me in the ring, so I figure I'll pay you back in the corner. (Click) This is me and the little Mrs. outside the motel on our recent weekend at Niagara Falls. (Click) This is the Mrs. buying a straw hat for her Aunt Mimi. (Click) This is the Mrs. ... "

1. Summons the ringside doctor: "You're gonna have to stop the fight, doc. Check my guy out. He's got no pulse. Don't bother with the stethoscope because he definitely doesn't have any heart. I'm telling you, doc, he passed away three rounds ago and has been fighting on instinct."



Atlas with his former charge, Michael Moorer

WATCHING TV

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Date	Winner/Loser	Network	Division	Significance	Matchup	Result
3-21-97	David Reid W 4 Sam Calderon	HBO	jm	B	B-	B
	Olympic gold medalist's pro debut a competitive battle					
3-21-97	**Montell Griffin W Disq. 9 Roy Jones**	**HBO**	**WBC lh**	**A**	**A-**	**B+**
	Controversial ending to mostly technical battle					
3-22-97	Daniel Santos KO 5 Eric Vazquez	TVKO	w	C+	C	C+
	Powerpunching Santos extended further than usual					
3-22-97	Lucia Rijker KO 5 Chevelle Hallback	TVKO	l	C	C	B+
	Former kickboxer Rijker wants Christy Martin					
3-22-97	Jesse James Leija W 12 Joel Perez	TVKO	NABF l	B+	A-	A-
	Leija's experience shows in grueling crossroads bout					
3-22-97	Butterbean KO 2 Kenny Woods	TVKO	h	C-	D	C
	Bean crushes novice with one giant right hand					
3-22-97	Michael Carbajal KO 10 Scotty Olson	TVKO	jfl	B+	B+	B
	Not bad, but fight would've meant more five years ago					
3-22-97	**Genaro Hernandez W 12 Azumah Nelson**	**TVKO**	**WBC jl**	**A**	**A**	**B+**
	Only real drama comes after seventh-round controversy					
3-25-97	Derrell Coley KO 11 Kip Diggs	USA	Vacant NABF w	B+	A-	A
	Coley rises from three knockdowns in thriller					
3-29-97	**Michael Moorer W 12 Vaughn Bean**	**Show**	**IBF h**	**A**	**D**	**D**
	Only way we got through this was with three cups of coffee					
3-29-97	Julio Cesar Chavez W 10 Tony Martin	Show	w	A-	B+	A-
	Chavez getting hit often enough to make every fight competitive					
3-29-97	**Ricardo Lopez W 12 Mongkol Chareon**	**Show**	**WBC s**	**A-**	**B-**	**B**
	Thai challenger's toughness makes this better than most Lopez bouts					
3-30-97	Buster Douglas KO 6 Brian Scott	CBS	h	B	B-	C+
	Big Bus too sharp for 270-pound clubfighter					
4-5-97	**Vuyani Bungu W 12 Kennedy McKinney**	**ABC**	**IBF jf**	**A**	**A**	**B-**
	Tactical fight until McKinney's late-rounds rally					
4-5-97	David Tua KO 11 Oleg Maskaev	CBS	h	B	B	B+
	Mostly dull until explosive ending					
4-6-97	Antonio Rivera KO 1 Ken Sigurani	ESPN2	w	C+	B-	B
	Previously unbeaten Sigurani stunned by three-day sub					
4-8-97	Obed Sullivan KO 12 Levi Billups	USA	h	B-	B-	C+
	Billups tires in second fight inside of a week					
4-12-97	**Raul Marquez KO 9 Anthony Stephens**	**ABC**	**Vacant IBF jm**	**A**	**A-**	**B**
	Blood flows, punches don't					
4-12-97	**Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Pernell Whitaker**	**PPV**	**WBC w**	**A+**	**A+**	**B-**
	As far as chess matches go, an intriguing one					
4-12-97	Butterbean KO 2 Ed White	PPV	h	C-	C-	B-
	Bean eats lots of leather in round one					
4-12-97	Mickey Ward KO 7 Alfonso Sanchez	PPV	jw	B-	B	B+
	One-sided for Mexican until shocking one-punch kayo					
4-12-97	Floyd Mayweather Jr. KO 1 Bobby Geipert	PPV	jl	C	C	D
	Going in: Mayweather five fights, Geipert 27 fights					
4-12-97	Eric Morel W 4 Jesus Lopez	PPV	fl	C-	C	C+
	First points win in promising Olympian's seven-bout career					
4-12-97	Paulie Ayala W 10 Nestor Lopez	PPV	b	B-	B-	B
	Ayala an all-action fighter without much pop					
4-15-97	Ray Oliveira W 12 Charles Murray	USA	NABF jw	B+	B+	A-
	Deja vu; "Sucra Ray" again too busy for "The Natural"					

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; Fox—Fox Sports (cable)

A MOST FAITHFUL FRIEND

Mario Rivera Martino penned this month's "The Ring Classic" on Jose Torres *(page 68)*, which reminded us just how long he's been our man in Puerto Rico. Since its inception in 1922, THE RING's correspondents have been the core of the magazine. And Rivera Martino, now 73, has been a contributor and friend for no less than 53 years.

In 1945, Nat Fleischer summoned Rivera Martino to cover Joe Louis' tour of U.S. Army camps. His first ringside report from Puerto Rico came in 1950. Ever since, and through his 40-plus years in sales and management for Goodyear (he's now retired), the bilingual Rivera Martino has covered fighters such as Torres, Carlos Ortiz, Esteban DeJesus, Edwin Rosario, Wilfredo Gomez, and Felix Trinidad.

In 1947, the Puerto Rican-born Rivera Martino, who spent most of his early years in New York City, returned to the island for a brief vacation. "Fifty years later, I still haven't returned," he said. We're kind of glad he stayed put. It certainly made the magazine better.

San Juan, 1966: Rivera Martino (right) and Nat Fleischer

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

In Fort Scott, Kansas, former heavyweight contender **Tommy Morrison** was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol ... During a conference call before his bout against **Tony Martin**, **Julio Cesar Chavez** called his former promoter, **Bob Arum**, a "liar and a racist" ... Former heavyweight contender **Razor Ruddock** turned himself in after being charged with robbing a two-karat diamond ring off the finger of **Alexandria Williams**, the mother of his child, in Ruddock's Plantation, Florida, residence. Ruddock posted bond and was released ... **George Hernandez**, 54, and **Gilbert Fontes**, 49, have been charged with the murder of former welterweight champion **Don Jordan**, who was beaten up last September. Jordan, 62, fell into a coma and died on February 13. Both men are longshoremen, as was Jordan. Hernandez and Fontes pleaded innocent. If convicted, they could face the death penalty.

THE PUNCHLINES

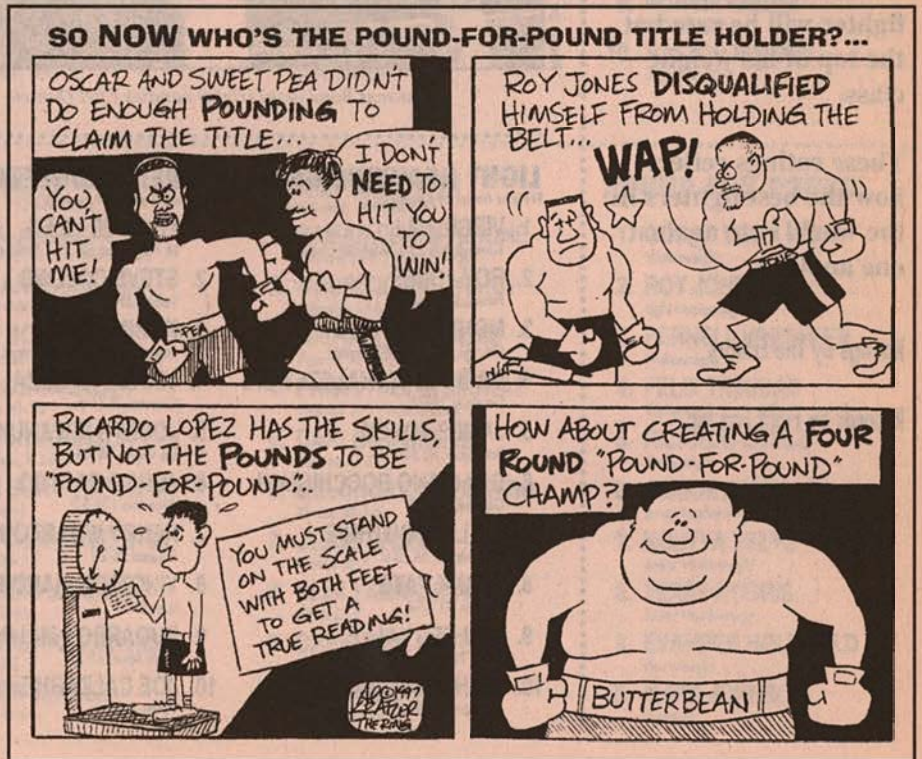
"Why not? I can probably use a tuneup fight somewhere along the line."

–Oscar De La Hoya, regarding a possible matchup vs. Hector Camacho, to the *Philadelphia Daily News.*

"I watched Cus [D'Amato] at the end. To be around [Mike Tyson], he diminished himself. I remember he told a promoter, 'This guy [Tyson] is a piece of garbage, I'm only doing this for [friend and manager] Jim Jacobs.' Michael Moorer isn't an evil person, he's a tortured person."

–Teddy Atlas, regarding his decision to stop training IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer, in *USA Today.*

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended April 17, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

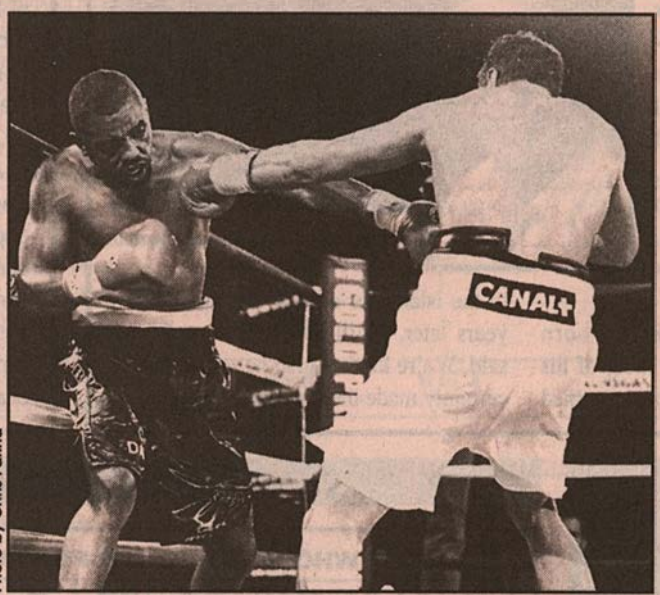


Photo by Chris Farina

Laurent Boudouani (right) handles Carl Daniels

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *30-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *45-2*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *38-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-2*
6. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
7. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *31-0-1*
8. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *27-0*
9. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *40-1*
10. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-5*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *29-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-3-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *36-1*
5. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *36-3-1*
6. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *37-2*
7. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *17-0*
8. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. *19-1*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *16-1*
10. **YOSUKEZAN NISHIJIMA** Japan *17-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-1*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *32-0-1*
5. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *54-3-2*
6. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *39-3-2*
7. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *23-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *37-4*
9. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *23-1*
10. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *50-3*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *35-3*
3. **ROBIN REID** England *22-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *41-6*
5. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *23-1-2*
6. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *101-5-2*
7. **HENRY WHARTON** England *25-2-1*
8. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *30-6*
9. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*
10. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *21-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *30-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *23-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *25-0-1*
5. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *29-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *28-1-1*
7. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-4*
8. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *35-2*
9. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *28-0*
10. **BRIAN BARBOSA** Providence, RI *22-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *45-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *36-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *31-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-3*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *37-3*
10. **GUILLERMO JONES**
    Panama *19-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *24-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *40-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *33-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *38-3-1*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-2*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *24-4*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *23-2-1*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *66-2*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *29-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *97-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-1*
5. **RAY OLIVEIRA**
   New Bedford, MA *30-5*
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-5-1*
7. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *48-3*
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *39-4*
9. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *41-21-4*
10. **SOREN SONDERGAARD**
    Denmark *30-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *21-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *31-1*
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *23-0*
6. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Delran, NJ *23-1*
7. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *41-4*
9. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *26-1-1*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *35-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *22-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *27-0*
6. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *34-0-1*
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *57-5-1*
8. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *44-3*
9. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *30-3*
10. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
    Gary, IN *20-2-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *40-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-1*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *50-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *36-2*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *19-1*
9. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *52-8*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *19-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *42-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *32-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-1*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *25-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *30-3-1*
8. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *26-0*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *21-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *23-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *35-1*
3. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASUK**
   Thailand *13-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *59-5-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *20-0*
6. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-3*
7. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-8-1*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *10-1*
9. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
10. **PASTOR MAURIN**
    Argentina *33-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *39-0-2*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *35-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *20-3-1*
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *13-0 (WBA Champ)*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
7. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *15-1*
8. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
9. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
10. **POLO SAUCEDO**
    Houston, TX *12-3-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *22-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *43-7-3*
5. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *14-3*
6. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
7. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *24-1*
8. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-4-3*
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *33-3*
10. **JESPER JENSEN**
    Denmark *21-0*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *44-3*
4. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *17-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *48-5-4*
7. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *30-7*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *21-2*
9. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *45-10-2*
10. **HI YONG CHOI**
    South Korea *19-2*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
9. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray Is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selection (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McCallum, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 60. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Razor Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A

Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker. Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

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NEW FACES

WILLIE JORRIN

Featherweight

By Steve Nicolaisen

For Sacramento, rich in a boxing tradition that goes back more than a century, it was a special night. Last November, for the first time in more than 11 years, the doors to the Memorial Auditorium were opened. Following a long fight to prevent its going the way of the wrecking ball, and a bond measure that contributed to a $10.8-million renovation, fight fans entered the venerated hall for the first fight card since Bobby Chacon-Art Frias in July 1985.

First opened in 1927, the Memorial has hosted cards headlined by the likes of Archie Moore, Bobo Olson, and Chacon, who, in THE RING'S 1982 Fight of the Year, climbed off the canvas to outduel Bazooka Limon. Locally produced world champions Tony Lopez and Loreto Garza began their pro careers at the Memorial as well.

After the 2,000 fans in attendance paid homage to the handful of past ring heroes, the main-event fighters made their way to the ring. It was fitting that the featured player was Willie Jorrin because the unbeaten prospect is the local fighter most likely to follow Lopez and Garza and bring a world title to Sacramento.

Jorrin didn't disappoint. Calling it "an honor" to headline that night's card, he pressured his opponent, Tijuana's Jose Manjarrez, from the opening bell. Despite a pair of swollen knuckles on his right hand, Jorrin pounded Manjarrez to the body, then unloaded rights to the head. Staggered several times and nearly down in the seventh, Manjarrez somehow remained upright to the final bell. Despite his opponent's courage, Jorrin won all 10 rounds on each of the three cards.

The 26-year-old Jorrin, 16-0 (9), has done much to revitalize boxing in Sacramento, which had been virtually void of fistic activity since the retirements of Lopez and Garza. Born and raised in West Sacramento, Jorrin graduated from River City High School while in the midst of an 11-year amateur career. In 1991, before a hometown crowd at Arco Arena, he won the National PAL bantamweight title. The following year he capped his amateur career by winning the Western

(Continued on page 57)

PRO RECORD

1993		
Feb. 12	Esau Dieguez, Sacramento	KO 1
May 17	Marco Vargas, Sacramento	KO 1
Aug. 27	Ralph Chavez, Sacramento	KO 1
Oct. 1	Pat Chavez, Sacramento	W 6
1994		
March 8	David Munoz, Sacramento	W 8
April 9	Julio Sanchez, Reno	W 6
Aug. 2	Ernesto Medina, Brooks, CA	KO 2
Nov. 10	Fernando Sanchez, Reno	W 6
1995		
Jan. 28	Victor Flores, Reno	KO 3
May 13	Max Maldonado, Sacramento	KO 8
Nov. 21	Lazaro Padilla, Sacramento	KO 5
1996		
March 18	Antonio Ramirez, Sacramento	W 10
April 22	Juan Salazar, Sacramento	KO 2
July 1	Jose Lopez, Sacramento	W 10
Nov. 14	Jose Manjarrez, Sacramento	W 10
1997		
Feb. 10	George Parra, Sacramento	KO 7

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
16	16	0	0	9

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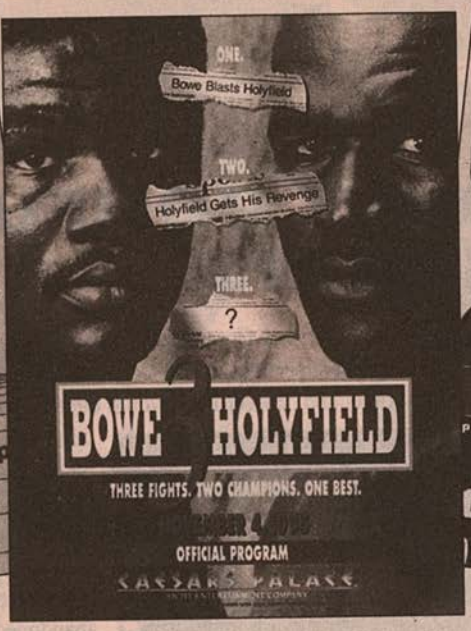

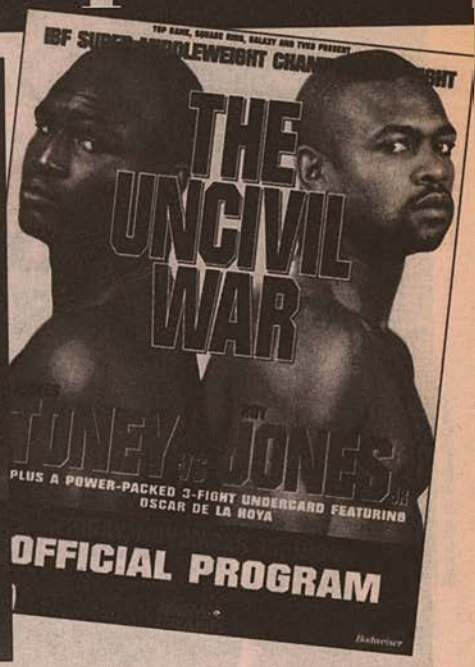

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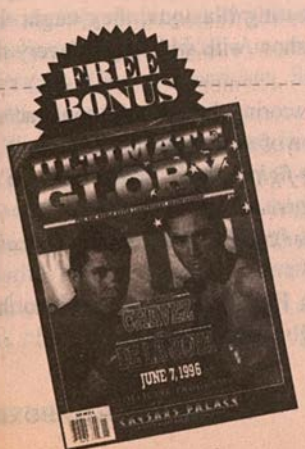

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

ONLY CONFUSION REIGNS

Pernell Whitaker and Oscar De La Hoya seemed to be having fun at various points in their welterweight superfight in Las Vegas. "The Golden Boy" would smile that Rembrandt toothpaste smile, and "Sweet Pea" would counter with a wiggle of his posterior. Whitaker would talk some trash, and De La Hoya would score and raise his arms over his head on his way back to the corner. Glad they were having a good time, because the rest of us sure as heck weren't.

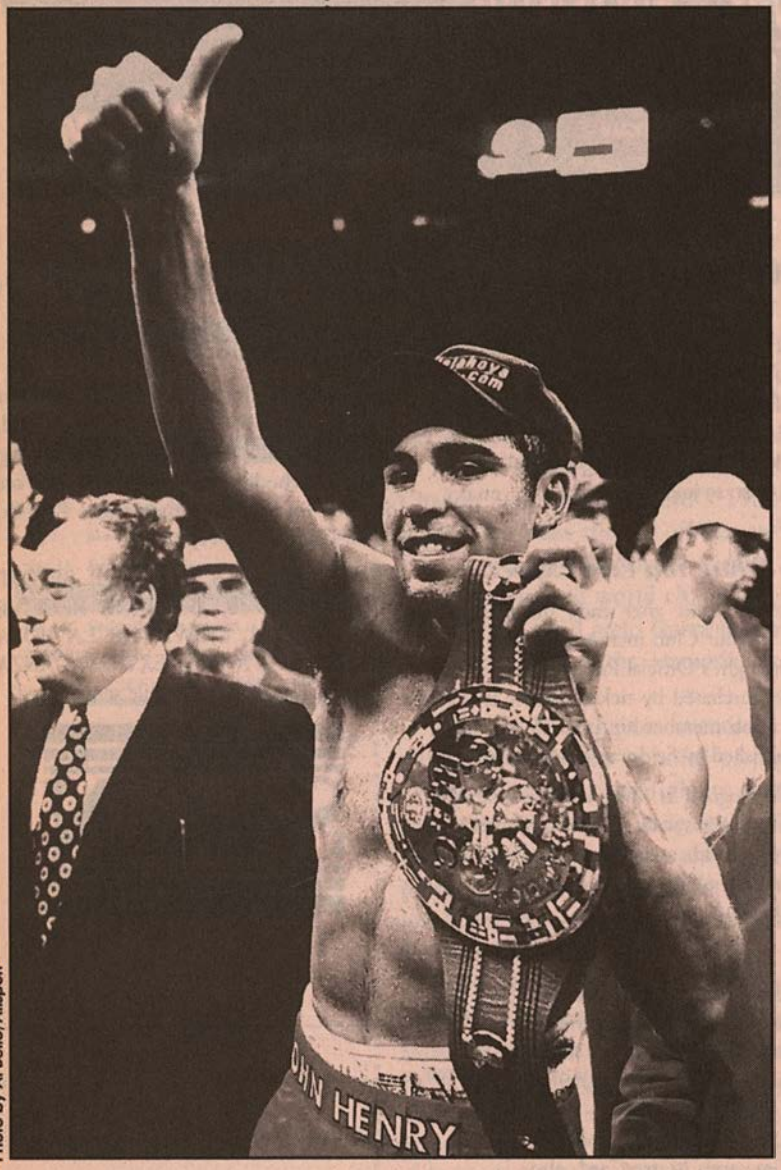


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Did De La Hoya deserve the belt he won from Whitaker? Columnist Ryan had "Sweet Pea" one point ahead in a heavily hyped bout that lacked sustained action.

The first superfight of 1997 was a letdown primarily because Whitaker stuck to his style and De La Hoya abandoned his. The Pea, a defensive magician for most of his 13-year career, but increasingly easier to hit in recent bouts, brought back his disappearing act and made himself tough to find. Now you see his chin—*whoosh!*—now you don't. On the other hand, the previously fearless De La Hoya fought a timid battle and made too big a deal in his own mind over the fact that Whitaker is a southpaw.

You wonder if Whitaker not only kept his title and saved the De La Hoya fight with a dramatic kayo of Diobelys Hurtado in January, but also beat De La Hoya psychologically at the same time. What other explanation can there be for De La Hoya showing so much respect for the light-hitting Whitaker?

If you're curious as to how my scorecard read, it was 114-113 for Whitaker. Had De La Hoya won by a point or the bout been scored a draw, there would have been no screaming from me. Awarding De La Hoya the decision by margins of six, six, and four points, however, was inexcusable. The way Dalby Shirley, Chuck Giampa, and Jerry Roth are capable of suspending reality and creating illusions, they ought to be putting on a stage show with white tigers every night on The Strip.

Such ridiculous scoring, by the way, could actually lead to a new version of a dumb old joke:

Reporter (to big-fight judge): Surely, you can't be serious with that scorecard.

*Judge (to reporter): I **am** serious, and stop calling me [Dalby] Shirley!*

Whitaker-De La Hoya left us with a lot to think about. Here's what I've been thinking:

•**It's official: The challenger doesn't have to take the champion's title anymore:** Yet another result of splintered titles and too many alphabet organizations crowning chumps is that judges have lowered the standards for a challenger's performance. A champion, and that even includes an all-time great like Whitaker, no longer gets the automatic benefit of the doubt in close fights because that one-eighth of the title he holds isn't considered a sacred trophy that should be pried from his grasp only following an extraordinary effort by the opponent.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Whitaker and De La Hoya smiled and hugged after the final bell. "They did it to me again," Whitaker said of the judges who made De La Hoya a unanimous decision winner. Will Whitaker and De La Hoya do it again?

Sweet Pea's claim that he won 10 of 12 rounds, and that the public should be allowed to score future bouts, were equally ludicrous. But he was right to be incensed.

One instance after another has taught us that, these days, the edge instead goes to the guy who's *supposed* to win. De La Hoya was an undefeated 24-year-old favorite facing a 33-year-old underdog who, regardless of the folly of such blemishes, entered the contest with a loss and draw. The Nevada judges knew De La Hoya's best earning days were ahead of him, while Whitaker's were in the past. ("Money talks, and De La Hoya is a fighter who means a lot to the economy of Nevada," said Whitaker's promoter, Dino Duva.) It also didn't hurt De La Hoya's chances that his promoter, the influential Bob Arum, has been based in Las Vegas for years.

Those factors, not the crowd's cheering, Whitaker's showboating, or De La Hoya's sporadically effective aggression, were the reasons for the margin of De La Hoya's victory.

•**Whitaker's style has finally exasperated more than just his opponents:** Arum vows there will be no rematch because it would be a difficult sell to Mexican-American fans who loathe Whitaker's defensive style. Arum neglected to mention that The Pea's darting, dashing, powerless attack isn't a particular favorite of Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans, Arab-Americans, African-Americans, Central Americans, South Americans, or Jay & The Americans, either.

When Whitaker turned pro in '84, he was a miserable quote, but his hand speed and ability to overwhelm his mesmerized foes teased us into thinking he might be an exciting performer. Ironically, as the years unfolded, he became more personable and colorful, but less enjoyable to watch. In his prime he liked to fight flatfooted in ring-center, but his amazing upper body movement, lack of a crunch punch, and huge edge in ability combined to make even *that* style dull. Nobody pays to watch defense, and a part of me says that if Whitaker wants to play chess the way he did vs. De La Hoya, his next big-money battle should be against Gary Kasparov.

On the other hand ...

•**How dare anyone punish Whitaker?:** Is it really fair to climb all over a guy who overcame 3-1 odds and, no matter what Dalby, Chuck, and Jerry claim, registered the upset? Should Sweet Pea have gotten into a slugging match and had his giblets handed to him just to make for more dramatic sports page photos? Why should the guy who, at least according to the Vegas sports books, overachieved be denied a rematch by the promoter of the kid who underachieved?

The emotional side of me would rather see De La Hoya get a crack at Ike Quartey or the Felix Trinidad-Terry Norris winner because the mesh of styles and mindsets assures that a fallout shelter would have to be constructed at ringside. The rational side of me, however, knows that it's Whitaker who deserves one of those matchups first. And lucky for him, he just may land one.

If Arum is to be believed (is today the lying day or the telling-the-truth day?), De La Hoya's schedule is booked with David Kamau, Hector Camacho, and then a mandatory defense. Whitaker, unburdened of WBC obligations (no more Wilfredo Rivera forced down his throat), can do as he pleases. That will most likely mean a Julio Cesar Chavez rematch. Or it could involve Quartey, Norris, Trinidad, or Kostya Tszyu. Whitaker loses, and suddenly the world is his pea pod.

Weird, yet fitting for a guy who, if he walked away from the game right now, would be the only fighter in history to have two losses and a draw and still retire undefeated. ■

THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: ARE THE LOWER WEIGHT CLASSES MORE EXCITING THAN THE HEAVYWEIGHTS?

John Jackson, vice president, Forum Boxing: "Boxers in the lower weights always put on competitive fights and give the fans their money's worth. These fights are exciting, and the fights are usually close. Heavyweights get the publicity and the big money, but lighter-weight fighters put on the best fights.

"There is more action in the lower weights. Both fighters constantly work hard throughout the fight and are always in good shape. Zaragoza-Banke, Carbajal-Gonzalez I, and Barrera-McKinney were all great fights. All of them had the same things—lots of punches and action, and a fast pace. You don't always get that in the heavier weight divisions. Other fighters who are extremely exciting are Mark Johnson, Marco Antonio Barrera, and Oscar De La Hoya.

"We need to have the public pay more attention to these guys. These fighters are active and work extremely hard. Boxing fans need to support the lower-weight fighters the same way as the heavyweights. They need to come out to their fights. These fighters can provide an education to boxing fans and the public by showing them what they can do."

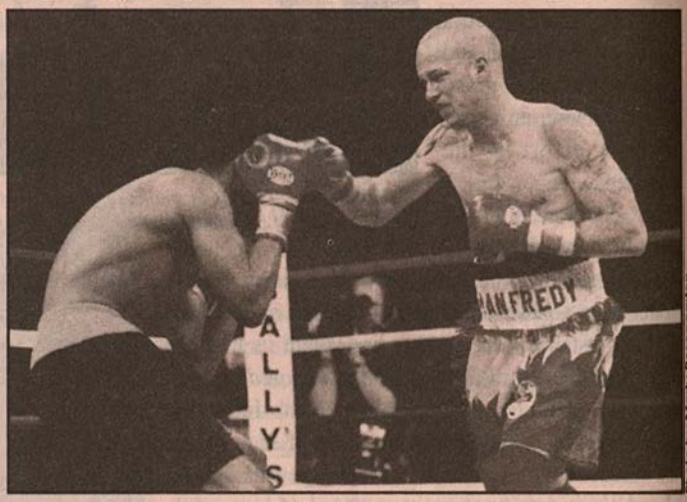
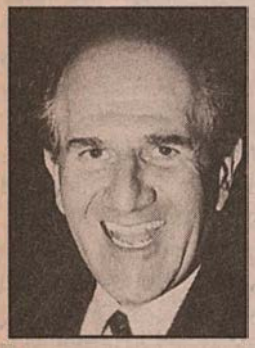


Photo by Marty Kissengarten

Lighter-weight fighters like 130-pound contender Angel Manfredy, shown pummeling Wilson Rodriguez, provide non-stop action. The same cannot be said of most heavyweights. Still, heavyweights always get more attention.

Q: CAN MONTELL GRIFFIN WIN A REMATCH VS. ROY JONES?



Harold Lederman, boxing judge and HBO's unofficial official: "I think Montell's got a very good chance. In the first fight, one judge had Montell ahead, and two had Roy winning. He was very competitive with Roy. It will be an excellent rematch.

"In the first fight, I think Jones would've stopped him in the 10th. In the ninth round, Griffin was tiring. Montell fought very well, but had it gone further, Montell wouldn't have made it past the 10th. Still, throughout the fight, Montell showed he can hold his own against Jones.

"Jones' advantage is in hand speed. He can hurt you with every punch he throws. He has the ability to knock you out at any time. If you don't have a good jaw, you can't beat him.

"Griffin takes a terrific punch. He has a much better jaw than people imagine. He stood up to the best Jones had to offer. His left jab is very good. He's awkward in the way he fights. He's got that hard straight right hand and can punch effectively to the body. He's a very good bodypuncher.

"I don't think Montell will change much in a rematch. I would make Roy an early 7-5 favorite. It will be very competitive. I think Roy will step side to side more in the rematch. He will get out of the way of Griffin's punches and stay off the ropes. The second fight will be closer than the first. I pick Jones to win in the late rounds."

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

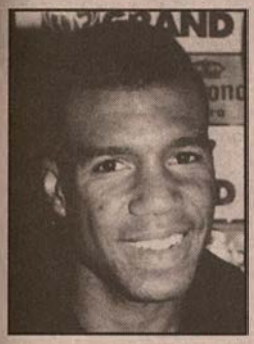
Q: SHOULD WEIGH-INS BE HELD THE MORNING OF THE CARD INSTEAD OF A DAY OR TWO BEFORE?

Dan Goossen, chief operating officer, America Presents: "If the weigh-in is held the day of, some fighters have a hard time nourishing themselves before going into the ring. You also have potential problems if the weigh-in is held the day *before* the fight. Now you have fighters putting on 10 or 15 pounds before entering the ring.

"I'd rather see a fighter weigh in the evening before the fight. He then has almost a day and a half to get back to full strength. That's better than having a fighter who stuffs himself after weighing in the day of the fight. That can be harmful.

"For safety purposes, a day-before weigh-in gives both fighters an opportunity to properly nourish themselves. Fighters who weigh in the day of the fight are sometimes lacking in physical strength. But you can't go any more than 24 hours before a fight. That's the cut-off point. Otherwise, with the potential weight gain, you are not fighting in the weight division you should be fighting in."

Q: WHO WILL WIN THE TERRY NORRIS-FELIX TRINIDAD SHOWDOWN?



Paul Vaden, former IBF junior middleweight champion: "I think Norris is going to win. Terry is boxing very smart right now. Trinidad has exceptional power, but Norris is boxing very intelligently. But it will be a very good fight.

"Trinidad is an exceptional fighter. Moving up in weight will help him. Felix cuts off the ring well. He has a dynamite right hand and punches well to the body. He also has really good power. Trinidad will try to cut the ring off. Felix can't make the mistake of just moving forward and bombing.

"Over the past two years, Norris has been boxing smartly. Terry can definitely punch. He hit Simon Brown with some great shots. If they go head to head, Norris can still win. He has the advantage in that type of fight. If it got to a shootout, Norris can match power against power. When I fought Terry, he wouldn't let me do what I could do best.

"Norris has a game plan and has better athleticism than Felix. They've both been knocked down. If Felix knocks Norris down, I don't think it will be because of Terry's chin. Norris has good speed and power. He has a hypnotizing jab and overall good boxing skills. He is a veteran who has been around a while.

"Nothing that happens in this fight will surprise Terry. Norris will give him angles and try to confuse him with his jab. He will try to fluster him. Felix can't make a mistake by bombing. Norris should win by kayo in eight. I don't think Felix will be able to handle his power." ■

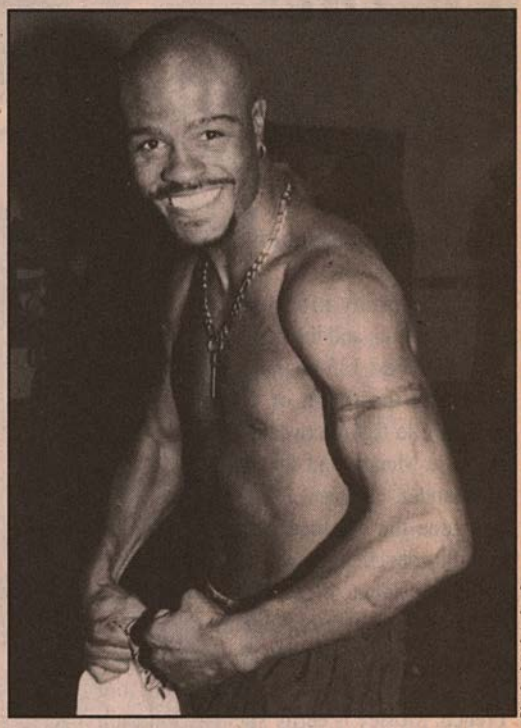


Photo by Jay Lash

Will Terry Norris prove too strong for Felix Trinidad? In one of the year's most anticipated matchups, the champions and pound-for-pound entrants will soon square off.

"SUGAR" SHANE MOSLEY

Wait Till You Get A Taste Of This Lightweight!

By Douglass Fischer

It's Saturday afternoon in Pomona, California, and the man who just might be the best 135-pounder in the world is watching the finish of the WBC lightweight title fight between champion Jean-Baptiste Mendy and Steve Johnston. The 12-rounder, televised from Paris by ABC, has gone the distance, and either fighter could be declared the winner.

The resident of the small desert town 60 miles east of Los Angeles sits up and fixes his light green eyes on the television screen as the decision is translated from French. Mosley is eerily silent as Johnston is announced the winner by split decision.

No one in the living room, which

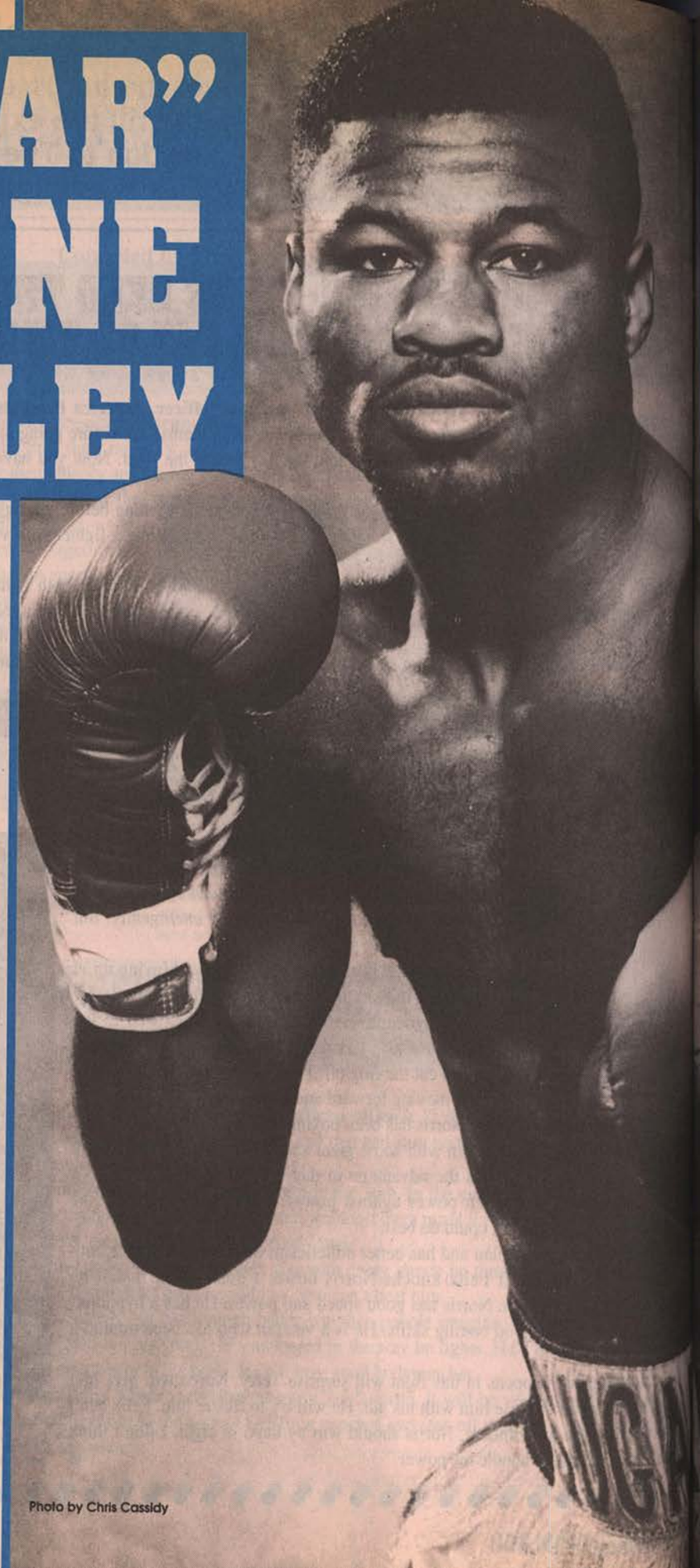
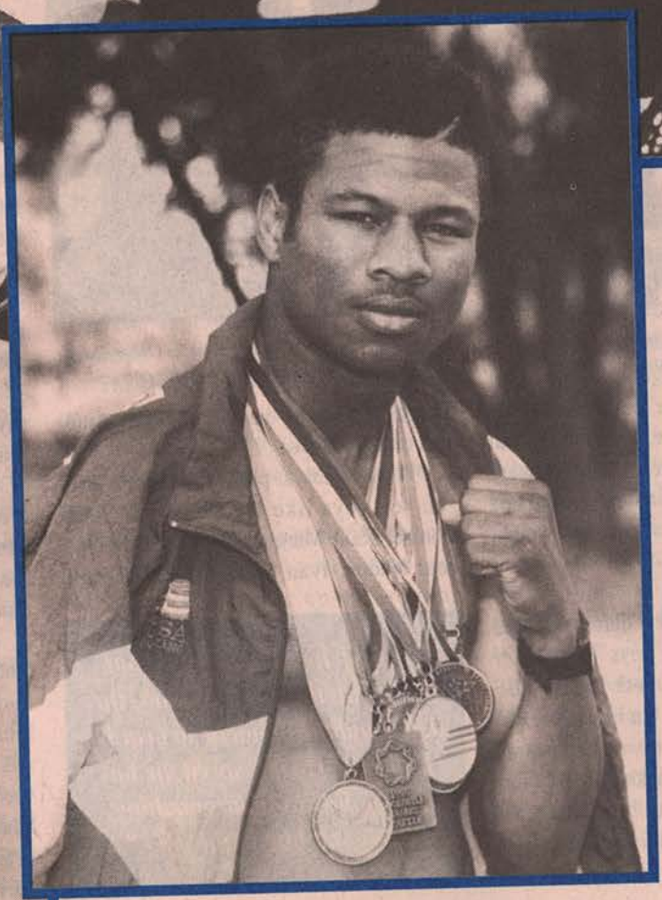
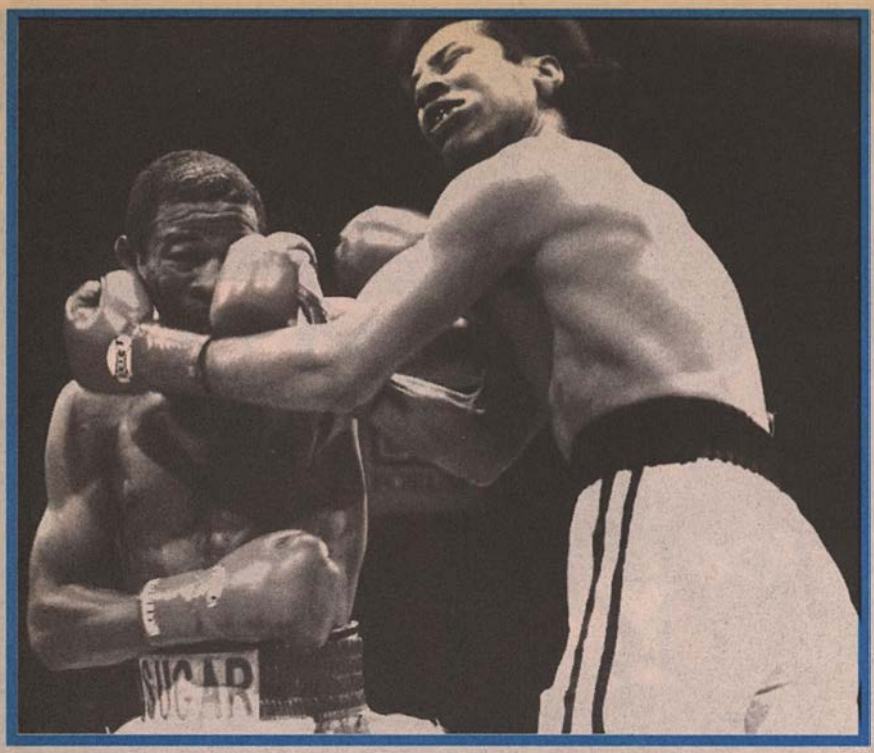


Photo by Chris Cassidy

In Mosley's 15th pro start, he stopped Louis Ramirez in the 10th round in Los Angeles. "Sugar" Shane has blinding speed and all the right moves. As a result, his handlers aren't hesitant to make the jump to a world title fight.



Mosley was among the most decorated amateurs of the late-'80s and early-'90s. At the 1992 Olympic Trials, he lost to Vernon Forrest, who went on to represent the USA at the Games in Barcelona.



"Shane's speed is his power," says Genaro Hernandez, who has sparred with Mosley. This was never more evident than in Mosley's second-round kayo of Juan Manuel Aranda in October 1993.

It upsets Mosley that three fighters he defeated as an amateur (from left), Rafael Ruelas, Oscar De La Hoya, and Steve Johnston, have all won world titles at lightweight. Mosley has yet to fight for one.

includes Mosley's father and trainer, Jack, and his mother, Clemmie, says a word. But the fighter's parents are painfully aware this is the third time their son has watched a former amateur rival win a lightweight title.

***

As an amateur, Mosley defeated Oscar De La Hoya (when the boys were 12 or 13) and Rafael Ruelas, both former IBF lightweight champions. And he won two of three vs. the newly crowned Johnston. As a pro, Mosley has racked up 22 wins (21 by kayo), but despite his undefeated record and crowd-pleasing style, he's toiled in relative obscurity, especially in comparison to the careers of other standouts of the Class of '92.

"When I look at photos of the '92 team and see guys like De La Hoya, Larry Donald, Raul Marquez, Jeremy Williams, Paul Vaden, Ivan Robinson, and Sergio

"I think he's the only guy out there with the physical tools, the skills, and the panache to beat De La Hoya. He has speed, he has power, he has that something. He's dazzling in the ring."

"It makes sense to move Mosley right into a title fight. He's ready to take off, and he could explode like a De La Hoya or a Sugar Ray Leonard."

Reyes, guys who have made names for themselves, I feel left out," Mosley said. "It's like they're at this great party and I wasn't invited. I want to join that party, and I want to make a grand entrance."

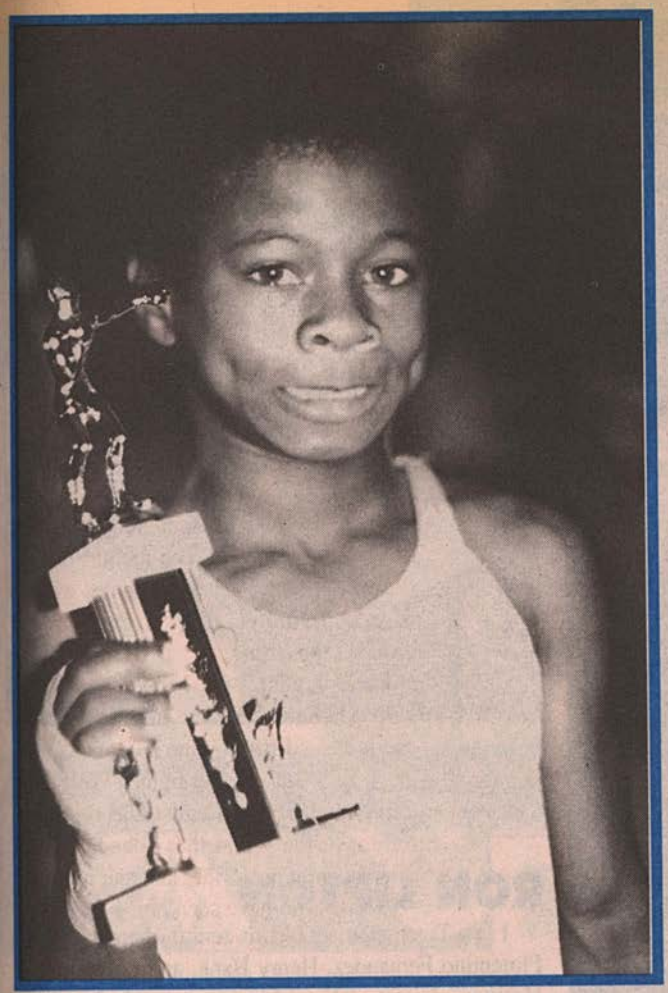
Before Mosley signed with Cedric Kushner Promotions, it seemed the contender would never get near the door, much less through it. Ten months of inactivity caused by contract disputes with his former promoter, Patrick Ortiz, nearly dropped him from the top 10 of the major alphabet organizations. Since hooking up with Kushner, Mosley has fought twice and is ranked fifth by the IBF and 12th by the WBC. But can the fighter West Coast trainer Joe Goossen calls "the best lightweight in the world that nobody knows" catch up with his former amateur rivals?

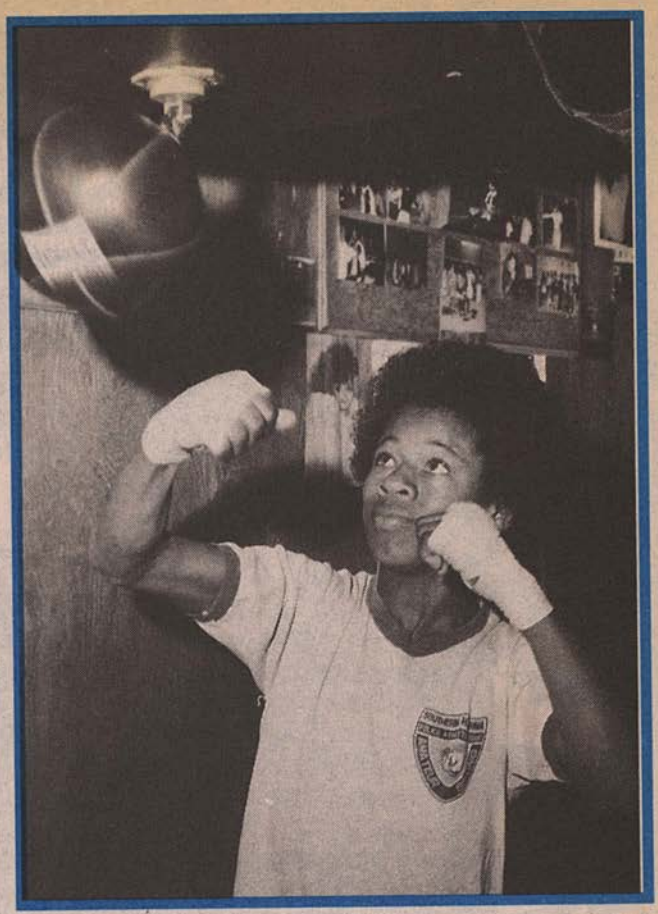
Those who have seen him fight believe Mosley possesses not only what it takes to defeat any of the current lightweight champions, but that special quality to become one of boxing's superstars.

"Mosley is the class of the lightweight division," says Goossen, who guided Ruelas and his brother Gabe to world titles. "His talent is almost Roy Jonesesque. In terms of pure skill, I'd say he's even better than Jones because he executes a more controlled, fundamentally sound fight in the ring."

Longtime ESPN analyst Al Bernstein says the 5'8" Mosley has more raw talent than any fighter he's seen in recent years. "I think he's the only guy out there with the physical tools, the skills, and the panache to beat De La Hoya," he said. "He has speed, he has power, he has that *something*. He's dazzling in the ring."

It is Mosley's hand speed that has dazzled both onlookers and opponents since he first tagged along with his father to a local gym when he was eight years old. Although Jack, who boxed as an amateur, was going to the gym only to lose weight, he occasionally showed his eager and energetic son a few boxing moves. Mosley quickly mastered every punch, counter-





Mosley, who started boxing at age eight, was winning amateur trophies before he turned a teenager (left). Taught by his father, the prodigy quickly mastered the rhythms of the gym (above).

punch, dip, feint, step, and block his father taught him, executing everything with speed, balance, and grace. Older trainers in the gym gave him the nickname "Sugar" because his style reminded them of a miniature Sugar Ray Robinson.

Mosley went on to compete in more than 250 amateur bouts. From 1989 to '92, he was ranked first nationally at 132, and then 139, pounds. At the 1992 Olympic Trials, he lost in the semifinals to Vernon Forrest, who went on to fight at the Games in Barcelona. "That was the ultimate low for me in the amateurs," he told THE RING in late-'93. "I guess the computer [scoring system] just didn't fit my style—the judges couldn't score many of my punches because I was so quick."

Fighting in California, Mosley turned pro in 1993 and scored kayos in his first nine fights. In his 13th pro bout, he stopped former NABF 130-pound champion Narciso Valenzuela, who had knocked down De La Hoya. Four fights later, Raul Hernandez, who had just gone the distance with Gabe Ruelas, was blown out in two.

As tough and grizzled as these fighters were, they lacked name recognition outside of Southern California's Mexican community. Fights with better-known lightweights, such as Leavander Johnson, George Scott, John-John Molina, and Johnston, eluded Mosley, and so have the fame and exposure that come with such matchups.

"The shame of the boxing world is that no one has had a chance to see Mosley," said Bernstein. "He's in his prime and should have won, or at least fought for, a world title by now."

But, explained Goossen, "In today's market, one loss can set your fighter back two years. If I had an up-and-coming lightweight who I wanted to take to the top, I would swim away from Shane Mosley."

The Mosley camp almost snared WBA champion Orzubek Nazarov, but the Japan-based Russian outpriced himself during last-minute negotiations. It was then that Mosley decided to sign with Kushner.

"I was fighting for $2,000 and $4,000 purses when I was 15-0," Mosley said. "[Steve] Johnston was on ESPN when he was 15-0, and ranked number one by the WBC. He was probably fighting for at least $30,000 a fight.

"I know boxing is a poor man's sport until you get exposure, but looking at how low I was in the ratings, I began to wonder if I was ever going to get a chance to show my talent.

"The ratings are so confusing to me. Who did Lamar Murphy beat to get those two shots at the WBC title [vs. Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Mendy]? Why were Molina and Scott always rated ahead of me? Molina was a champion, but at 130 pounds. Scott was knocked out by Jake Rodriguez."

Unable to secure a breakthrough bout, Mosley widened his reputation in L.A. gym wars against the likes of Julio Cesar Chavez, Azumah Nelson (when Mosley was 15), Genaro Hernandez, Hector Lopez, David Kamau, and Zack Padilla.

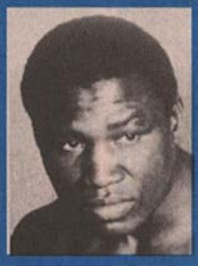
(Continued on page 58)

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Middleweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Dick Tiger



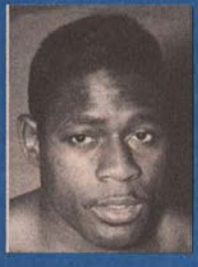
Amaigbo, Nigeria
Career: 1952-1970
61-17-3 with 26 kayos

It's hard to believe that a fighter who turned pro against Easy Dynamite, Lion Ring, and Super Human Power could become a world champion, but Tiger, born Richard Ihetu, did just that. Tiger was taught how to box by British military officials. He turned pro in Nigeria, moved to England in 1955, and shifted his boxing base to the USA in 1959.

Only 5'8", Tiger was a counterpuncher with exceptional strength and a dependable chin. He first gained prominence when he captured the British middleweight title in 1958. In '62, he won the WBA middleweight crown via decision over Gene Fullmer, and one year later stopped Fullmer in seven rounds to win universal recognition. Tiger lost and regained the title vs. Joey Giardello, and in 1966 was dethroned by Emile Griffith. Eight months later, he outpointed Jose Torres to win the light heavyweight title.

In December 1971, only five months after announcing his retirement, Tiger died in his homeland of liver cancer. He was 42.

George Benton



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Career: 1949-1970
61-13-1 with 36 kayos

Watching Benton in his prime, it's no surprise that he became a top trainer. The Philadelphian turned pro at age 16, and in only his 17th pro bout, outpointed Holly Mims. Fighting up and down the East Coast, but most often in Philly, he quickly emerged as a contender. A world title shot, however, eluded him throughout his 22-year career.

Benton's toughest tests came after he spent most of 1956 and '57 in the Army. A stylist who was near-impossible to hit flush, he featured a strong jab and purposeful movement, boxing in small circles. He wasn't a big puncher, but the kayos came because of his huge edge in class against all but a handful of opponents.

Benton held wins over world champions Joey Giardello, Jimmy Ellis, and Freddie Little. He lost to, among others, Henry Hank, Hurricane Carter, Bennie Briscoe, and Luis Rodriguez. He fought well past his prime, until age 36, and has been one of the game's finest teachers since.

Tiger is largely defined by his three-fight series with Gene Fullmer. Tiger won twice and drew once, with at least a portion of the middleweight title at stake in all three bouts.

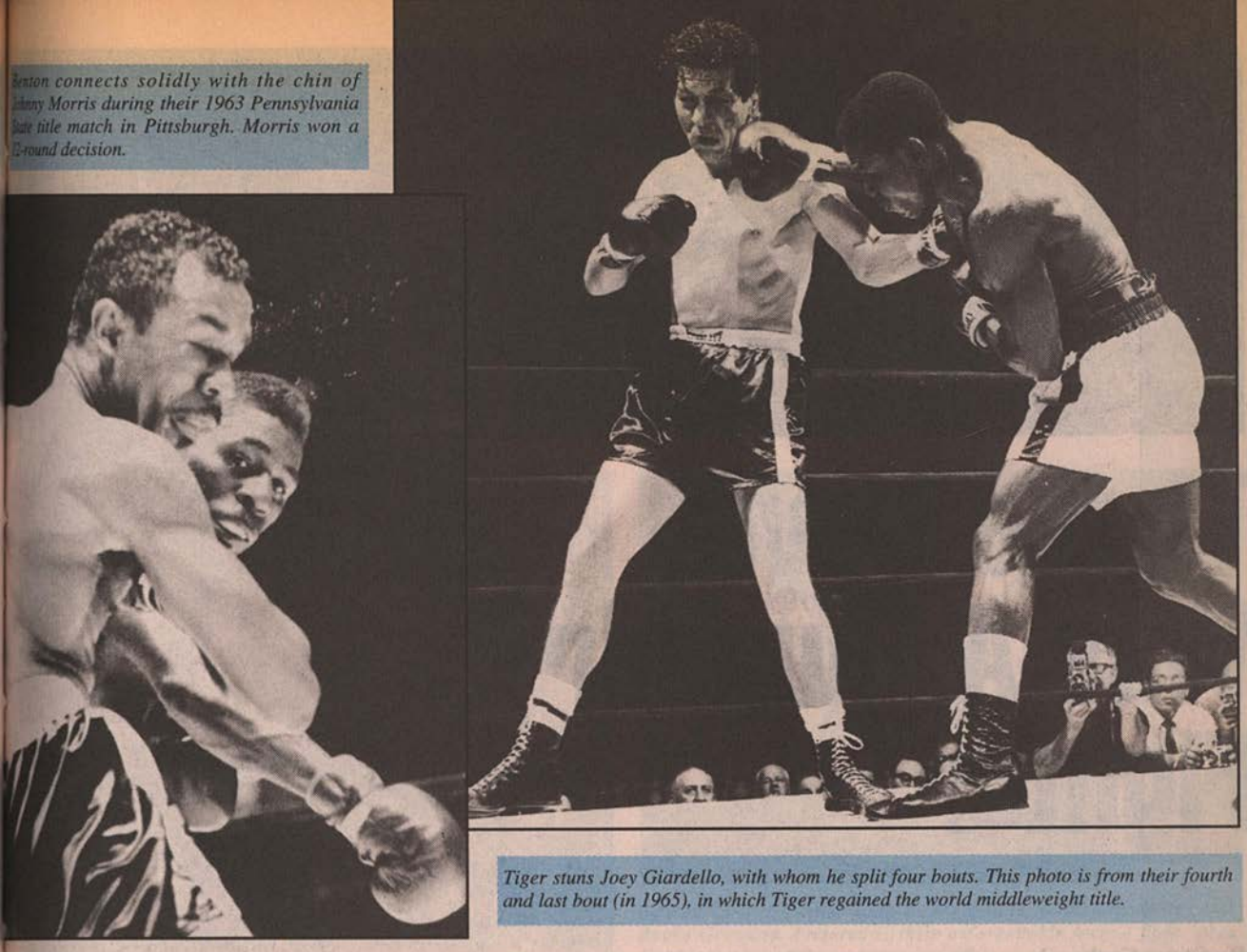
RON LIPTON

I saw Tiger approaching his zenith when he defeated Florentino Fernandez, Henry Hank, and Gene Fullmer. He was almost unbeatable in a punch-for-punch shootout, so powerful was his mindset and focus. However, Joey Archer was able to step around Tiger and do a paint job on him, as Tiger ploddingly stalked him in one-dimensional fashion. Archer squeezed out a questionable decision, but it was Joey Giardello who had a perfect night against Tiger in 1963. Benton, who could box and punch, would've had the same night.

Benton survived the most vicious, scientific onslaught by Rubin Carter that you ever saw and still managed to buzz Rubin in the seventh round. Tiger's leaping hook would be blocked by Benton's right, which he held very high, and Benton's uncanny ability to avoid punches would give Tiger fits.

Benton had great timing and knew all the tricks. He would pile up points countering with one-twos and keep Tiger off-balance with a stiff jab. He'd have to absorb some bodyshots, but nobody ever counted 10 over Benton. Benton by decision.

Ron Lipton, a referee based in New York, worked as a sparring partner for Rubin Carter, among others, in the '60s.



Benton connects solidly with the chin of Johnny Morris during their 1963 Pennsylvania State title match in Pittsburgh. Morris won a 12-round decision.

Tiger stuns Joey Giardello, with whom he split four bouts. This photo is from their fourth and last bout (in 1965), in which Tiger regained the world middleweight title.

RUSSELL PELTZ

Tiger was a strong fighter, as strong as a heavyweight, even though he had only a decent punch. He had a good chin and was always in good condition. He was a safe fighter; he held his hands real high and punched out of that position.

The big difference is that Tiger was well-represented by Jersey Jones, who was tight with Madison Square Garden, while Benton's manager, Herman Diamond, stayed independent. I don't think Benton fought more than half-a-dozen white fighters his whole career. If he had lost six of 14, as Tiger did at one point before getting hot, he never would've gotten a title fight like Tiger did. The rap on Benton was that he couldn't win the big one, but he didn't have that many big ones.

Benton fought everybody inside. He was a master at slipping and ducking. He would jab Tiger and keep turning him sideways. Emile Griffith beat Tiger twice, Giardello beat him two of four, Joey Archer beat him, and in the one fight Gene Fullmer decided to box, he held Tiger to a draw. Tiger had trouble with boxers. Benton on points, at least at a neutral site.

Russell Peltz, who promoted Benton toward the end of the middleweight's career, is based in Philadelphia.

JOEY GIARDELLO

Tiger was one of the best fighters of our generation. We were two counterpunchers, and we outcountered each other twice apiece. But we were different kinds of counterpunchers. He came forward all the time, while I waited. That's why we made for four good fights.

Tiger was a tough, tough guy, very strong. And he could adjust to any style. He wasn't really that big a puncher, but then again, I took a very good punch.

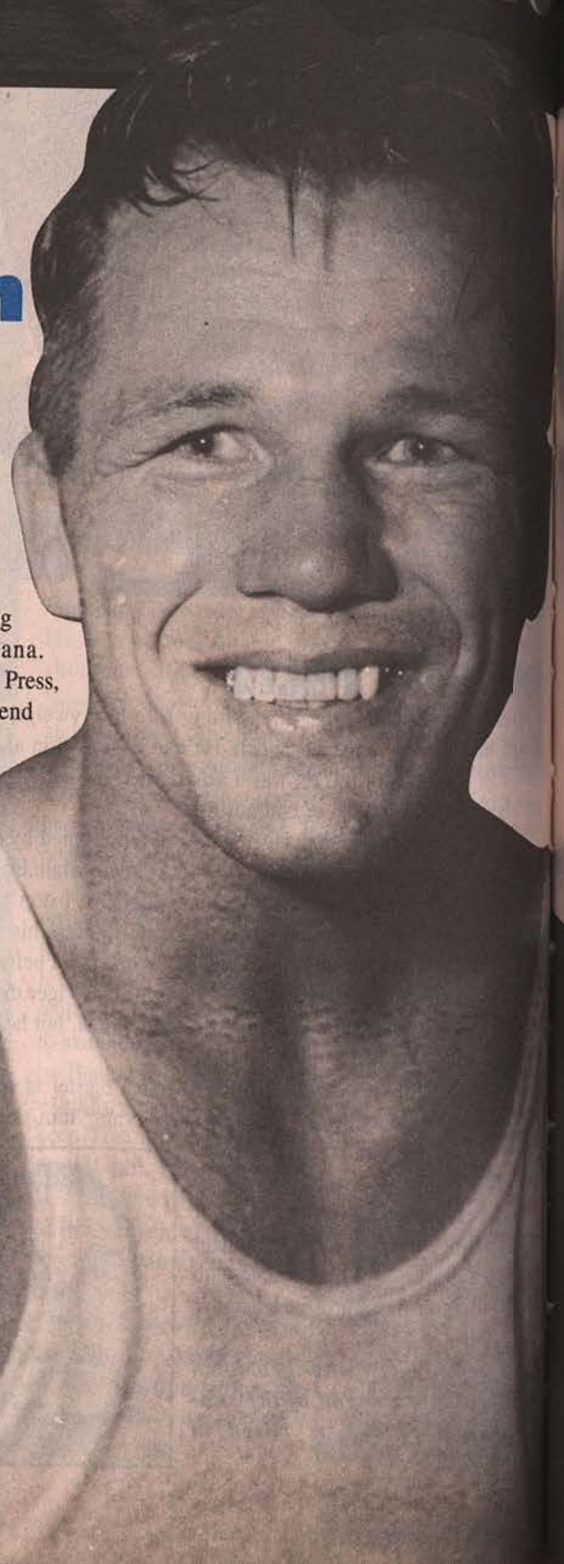
Benton was smart, a good boxer. He was a little bit of a counterpuncher, too. He was fast and had a good jab, but not much punching power. He fought great around Philadelphia, but not so great when he wasn't in his hometown. I thought I beat him (in Philadelphia), but they didn't give it to me.

Benton would beat on Georgie all night. He'd come forward and crowd him, never let him rest. When you fought Tiger, you were glad to hear the bell and get a minute's rest. I don't think Benton's jab would be a factor; I had a good jab and I had trouble keeping Tiger off me. Tiger by unanimous decision.

Joey Giardello is a former middleweight champion. He split four fights with Tiger and dropped a 10-round decision to Benton in 1962. ■

TONY ZALE: 1913-1997

There Never Was A Tougher Fighter



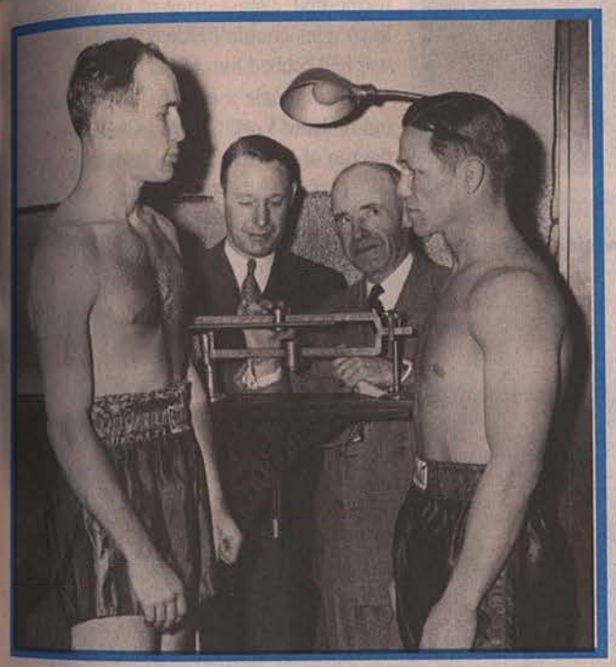
By Steve Farhood

The punch landed 57 years ago, but Billy Soose remembers it as if he were still campaigning as one of the best middleweights in the world.

"He hit me with a left hook to the liver in the first round and it paralyzed me," Soose, 81, said of Tony Zale, whom he outpointed over 10 rounds in 1940. "Actually, it was mostly an uppercut. But I could always beat any slugger, and I beat him eight of the next nine rounds.

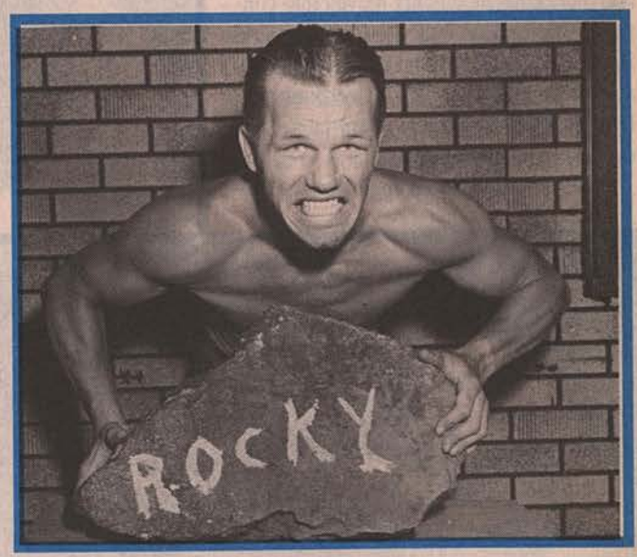
"I was a 4-1 underdog, and it was my best win," continued Soose, who went on to win the world title one year later. "Jimmy Bivins once hit me on a break and knocked me down, but Zale was the most powerful guy I ever fought."

A champion who reinforced the legacies of rough and rugged middleweight legends like Stanley Ketchel and Harry Greb, Zale, 83, died on March 20 at a nursing home in Portage, Indiana. According to the Associated Press, his family decided to suspend the antibiotics that had been prolonging his life. Zale had been suffering from both Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by two daughters.



Georgie Abrams and Zale weigh in for their title fight showdown in November 1941. Zale rose from the canvas to capture a unanimous 15-round decision. He fought only once more, dropping a decision to Billy Conn, before entering the Navy and beginning a four-year layoff.

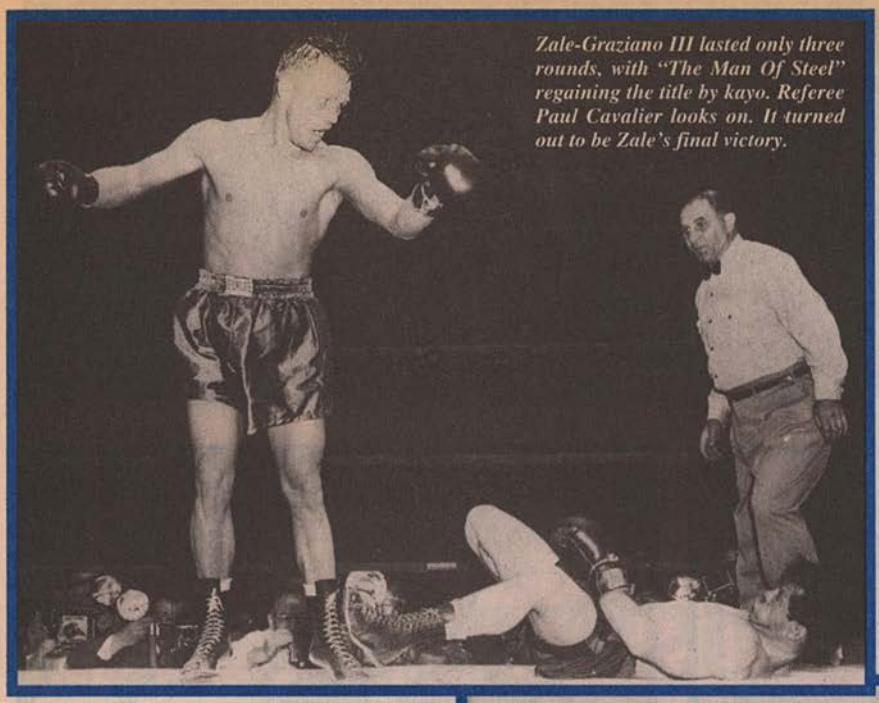
Zale was past his prime when he engaged in his historic trilogy with Rocky Graziano. Pictured is their unforgettable second fight, when Graziano won the title via sixth-round TKO.



Zale was thrilled to own a piece of The Rock; the rivalry netted him his biggest paydays. "I knew Graziano wasn't in my class," he said, "and I wanted to make sure he knew it, too.

"Tony's wife Philomena [a one-time professional baseball player who was dramatized in the film *A League Of Their Own*] took care of him like a baby in his failing years and was so dedicated to him, pushing him around in that wheelchair," recalled boxing historian Hank Kaplan. "So everyone used to wonder what would happen to her when Tony died. Well, she went first [in 1992]."

That "The Man Of Steel" didn't outlast *everyone* is somewhat of a surprise. There was never a tougher fighter than Anthony Florian Zaleski, born in Gary, Indiana, on May 29, 1913. He reigned as NBA champion and then world champion for seven years, won two of three historic wars with Rocky Graziano, and never failed to conduct himself with class and dignity. "He is without a doubt a symbol of the crashing, smashing middleweights," said Kaplan. "When you think of the middleweight division, you



Zale-Graziano III lasted only three rounds, with "The Man Of Steel" regaining the title by kayo. Referee Paul Cavalier looks on. It turned out to be Zale's final victory.

can't help but think of Tony Zale."

Turning pro in 1934, Zale, who fought out of Chicago, won only 18 of his first 29 bouts. Discouraged, he returned to the steel mills of Gary and didn't become a full-time boxer until mid-1937. A standup fighter known for his conditioning and bodypunching, he quickly moved into contendership and, in July 1940, stopped Al Hostak in the 13th round to win the NBA middleweight title. The powerpunching Hostak, Zale would say years later, was the best fighter he ever faced.

After losing to Soose and defeating former world champion Fred Apostoli in non-title bouts, Zale successfully defended against Steve Mamakos and Hostak, then, in November 1941, unified the title by outpointing slick Georgie Abrams over 15 rounds.

With World War II rapidly thinning the ranks of professional fighters, Zale fought only once in 1942, dropping a decision to light heavyweight Billy Conn. Then he began a four-year stint in the Navy, during which he served as a boxing instructor. The title was frozen, and when Zale reemerged, even a string of six consecutive kayo wins couldn't hide a simple fact: The war had robbed him of his prime.

During Zale's layoff, a wild-eyed pug out of New York City launched himself to the top of the division by knocking out the likes of Billy Arnold, Bummy Davis,

The 34-year-old Zale was swamped with congratulatory telegrams after his 1948 kayo of Graziano. Theirs was the most savage rivalry in the history of the ring.

Zale-Graziano IV, held at Madison Square Garden in 1973, was just for fun. Having bonded in a unique way, the rivals respected each other and became close friends.

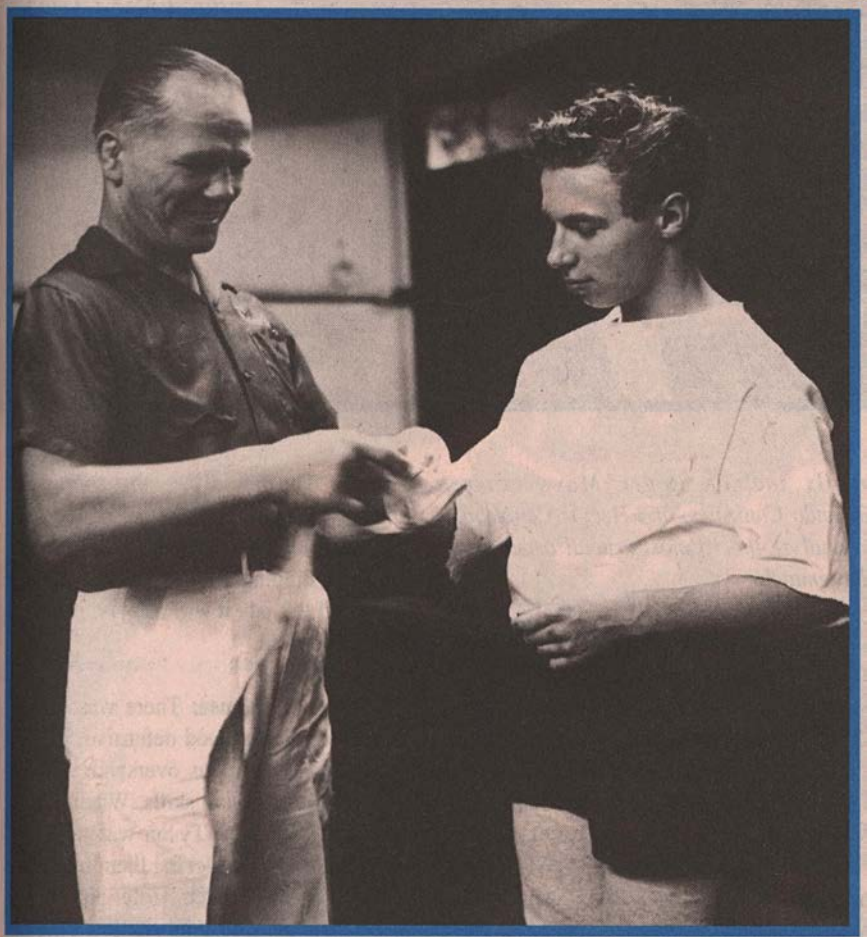
Freddie Cochrane, Harold Green, and Marty Servo. When Zale was finally ready to again defend the title, Rocky Graziano, a blown-up welterweight, was waiting for him. Never mind that, as Soose put it, "in his better days, Zale would've knocked Rocky out in one round." Zale, 33, and a lot closer to the end than the beginning, would forever be linked with his 24-year-old rival. Theirs would become the ring series against which all others would be judged.

Oddly, the underdog won all three bouts. Zale-Graziano I, fought before a crowd of 39,827 at Yankee Stadium in September 1946, was one of the greatest

fights in history—but not better than the rematch. After scoring a first-round knockdown, Zale proved to be just as stale as expected, and Graziano repeatedly bombarded him with the wicked right hands that made The Rock the most exciting fighter in the game. By the end of the fifth, Zale was bleeding and boxing with a broken right thumb. But Graziano slowed, and in the sixth, the veteran saved the title by knocking out his challenger with a right to the solar plexus and a hook to the chin. Wrote Red Smith, "Zale was helped to his dressing room, limp and only half-conscious, but still champion of the world."

The rematch, contested at Chicago Stadium in July 1947, set a then-indoor record by grossing $422,009. The arena's cooling system happened to fail that night, creating a stifling setting for perhaps the most brutal prizefight of them all. This time, Zale started quickly, pounding Graziano, who, by round three, was bleeding from a cut over one eye and blinded by swelling under the other.

Zale's farewell fight was a title-losing 12th-round TKO at the hands of the charismatic Marcel Cerdan in September 1948. Unlike so many faded former champions, Zale would resist the urge to sell his name by making a comeback. His final record: 67-18-2 (45).



After leaving the ring, Zale helped train young fighters at a Catholic Youth Organization gym in Chicago. What made him special—determination, pride, and the will to win—is not easily taught.

"The second fight was mine all the way," Zale said of the raw battle that in March was nominated, along with Jack Dempsey-Luis Firpo and Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier III, as the best fight of the 75 years of THE RING. "If I ever went into the ring wanting to prove something, that was the time. I knew Graziano wasn't in my class, and I wanted to make sure he knew it, too."

But somebody up there liked Graziano, and with Zale decelerating, the challenger began to rally in the fifth. One round later, Graziano connected with a right, driving Zale into the ropes. Some counted the conclusive followup flurry at 37 punches. Still, Zale would come to criticize referee Johnny Behr's stoppage.

"Back when Graziano and I were fighting," he said, "it was unheard of for a referee to give the fight to a challenger when the champion was way ahead on points and still on his feet.

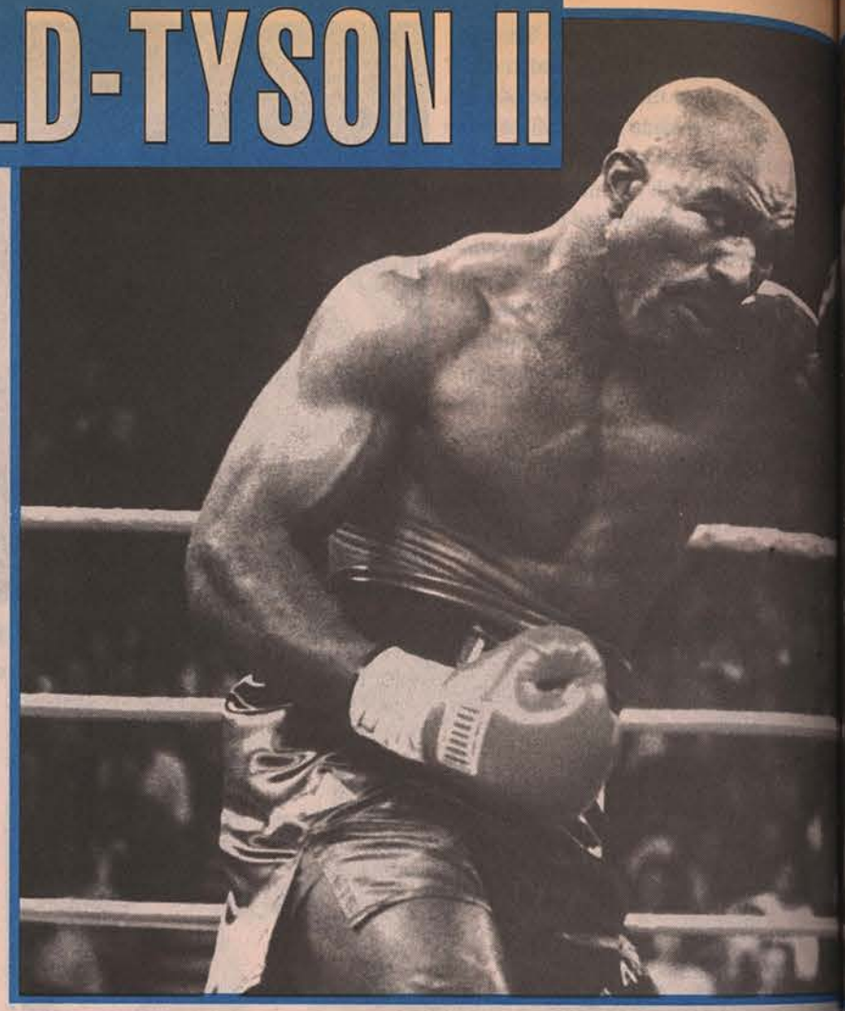
"You're entitled to get killed for your title."

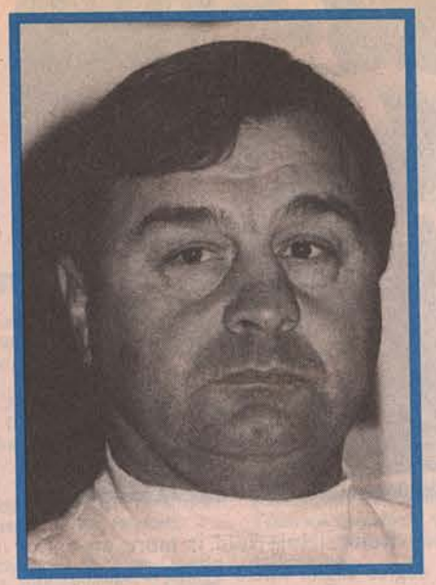
It didn't come to that in their third fight, held at Newark, New Jersey's Ruppert Stadium in June 1948. Zale dropped Graziano with a hook in the first round, and while Rocky rebounded in round two, winging that riveting right with impunity, he couldn't sustain his momentum. Zale floored him twice in the third, the second time for the full count. Graziano suffered a concussion, and in the dressing room remembered almost nothing. He was better off.

(Continued on page 58)

HOLYFIELD-TYSON II

The 10 Factors That Will Decide The Winner

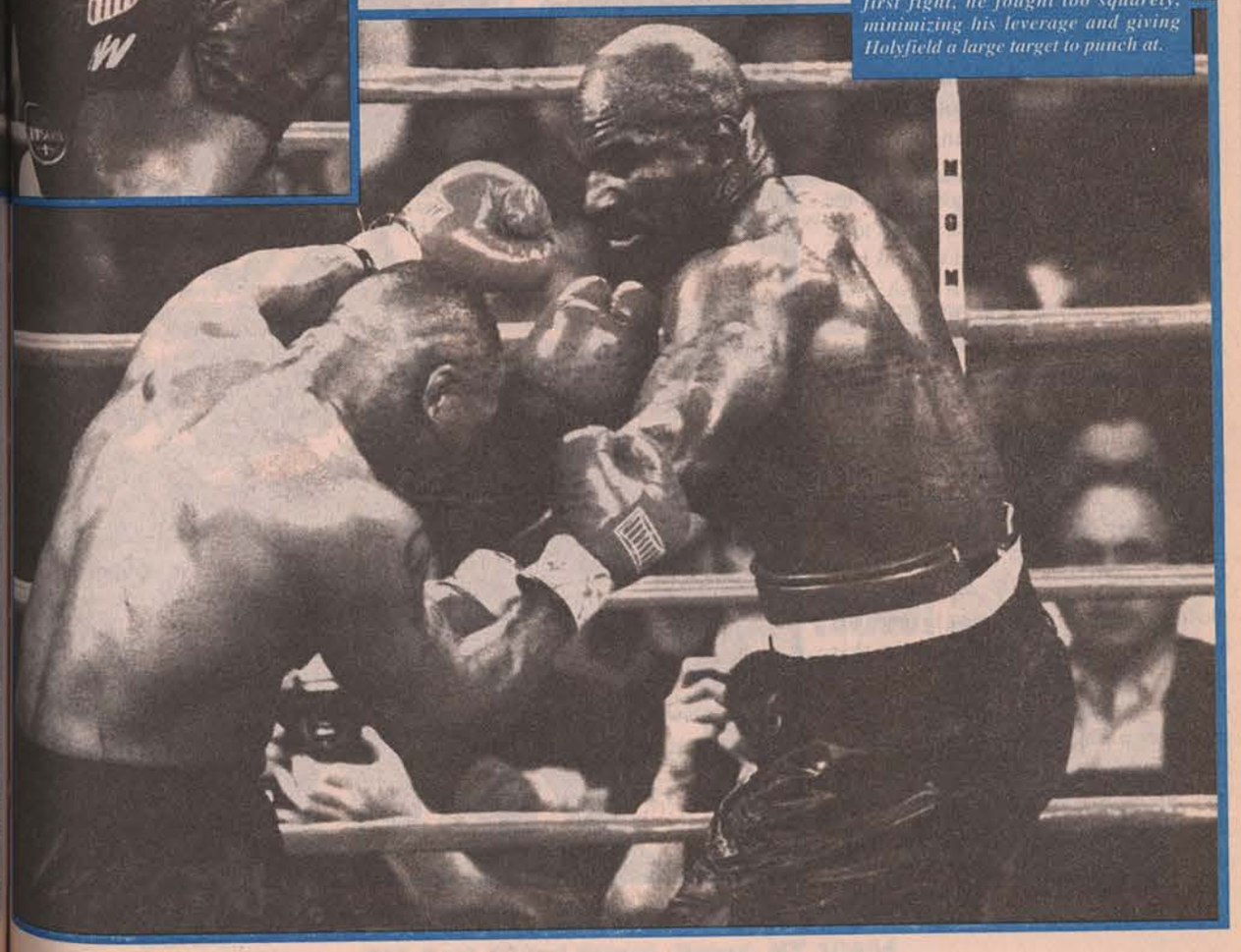




Trainer Jesse Reid: "I think Holyfield is going to outbox him again. If Holyfield gets caught, he could go. Tyson can still knock anybody out. But I don't see that happening."

Trainer Emanuel Steward: "It will be a tough fight. But I always knew Tyson would have problems with Evander. It's because of his mental makeup. I don't think that will change."

Tyson's balance will be a key. In the first fight, he fought too squarely, minimizing his leverage and giving Holyfield a large target to punch at.



Compiled by Robert Cassidy

In the big picture, Evander Holyfield's stunning upset of Mike Tyson last November was based on his refusal to be intimidated. That Holyfield did not fear Tyson allowed him to follow a game plan and outshine his rival in every aspect of the game.

Boxing is often reduced to simple terms. And quite simply, Holyfield dominated Tyson. He gave the defending champion and 6-1 favorite a good, old-fashioned beating. But such a monumental feat is never quite so simple. There were techniques to be executed, tactics to be employed, and intangibles that impacted the outcome. On June 28, Holyfield and Tyson will do it again. THE RING *has asked Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward, who has worked with Holyfield and currently trains WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, and Jesse Reid, whose pupils include Roger Mayweather, Orlando Canizales, and Hector Camacho, to analyze the 10 most crucial aspects of the rematch.*

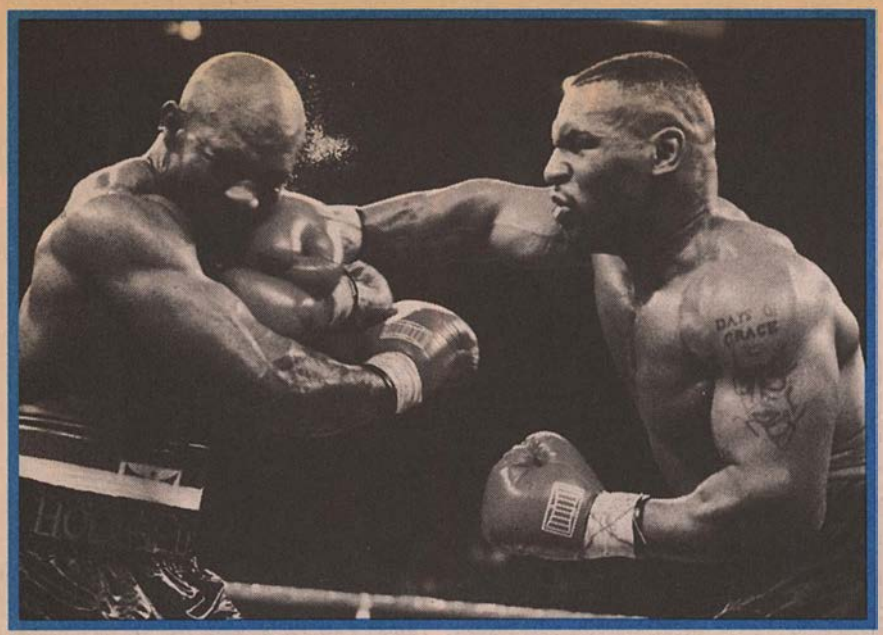
1. The jab: In the first fight, Holyfield used his jab effectively. The early rounds were marked by excessive clinching, but Holyfield managed to control the second half of the bout largely because he kept Tyson on the end of his jab. Perhaps that wasn't obvious, because everything Holyfield did worked so well. What was obvious, however, was that Tyson's jab was non-existent.

Steward: "I think the jab is the key weapon in this fight for both fighters. Tyson has a good little jab when he wants to use it. The trick is timing. He has to time Evander's jab and then throw his own. For Evander, he has to keep Tyson preoccupied with the jab. That will keep Tyson out of rhythm."

Reid: "The jab is the most important punch in boxing. If someone can teach Tyson to block punches with his hands, instead of slipping with his head, and fire back a stiff left jab, it will be very effective against Holyfield."

2. Tyson's defense: There was a time when Tyson was a good defensive fighter, but his elusiveness was overshadowed by his awesome offensive skills. When Kevin Rooney trained him, Tyson was adept at slipping punches or ducking them by bending at his knees or waist. Holyfield probably possesses quicker hands than any heavyweight Tyson has faced. "The Real Deal" didn't miss his target often in the first bout. From Tyson's perspective, that must change. His defense has to improve and his reflexes must be sharp if he is to win the rematch.

Reid: "I would teach Tyson to rotate his shoulders. He squares up in front of his



*One thing **all** the experts clearly agree on: Just because Tyson didn't floor Holyfield last November, that doesn't mean he lacks the power to knock out his rival. "Iron Mike" remains a dangerous one-punch bomber.*

opponents, and that's not good for anyone. But he's been fighting that way for so long, I don't know if anyone can change him. If he rotates his shoulders, it will give him better angles to punch back. He needs to show Holyfield more angles in this fight."

Steward: "Tyson has to go back to the way he used to move his head. He has to be extremely alert and very rapid with his head movement because his head is much closer to the other guy's weapons. Because of his stance, Evander probably has 12 more inches to see Tyson's punches coming."

3. Holyfield's ability to counter: Last November, Holyfield capitalized by countering Tyson's lunges and wayward hooks. While he deserves ample credit for his execution, his success was largely a result of Tyson's sloppy effort. Tyson fought in a plodding rhythm that was easy to time, and he launched single powerpunches that were nothing if not predictable.

Steward: "Tyson has a bad habit: When he throws a punch, he walks with it. He's off-balance. Tyson catches guys because they are usually running away from him. But by taking just a half-step back, Evander stepped back just enough to make Mike miss and become off-balance. Then Evander would punch."

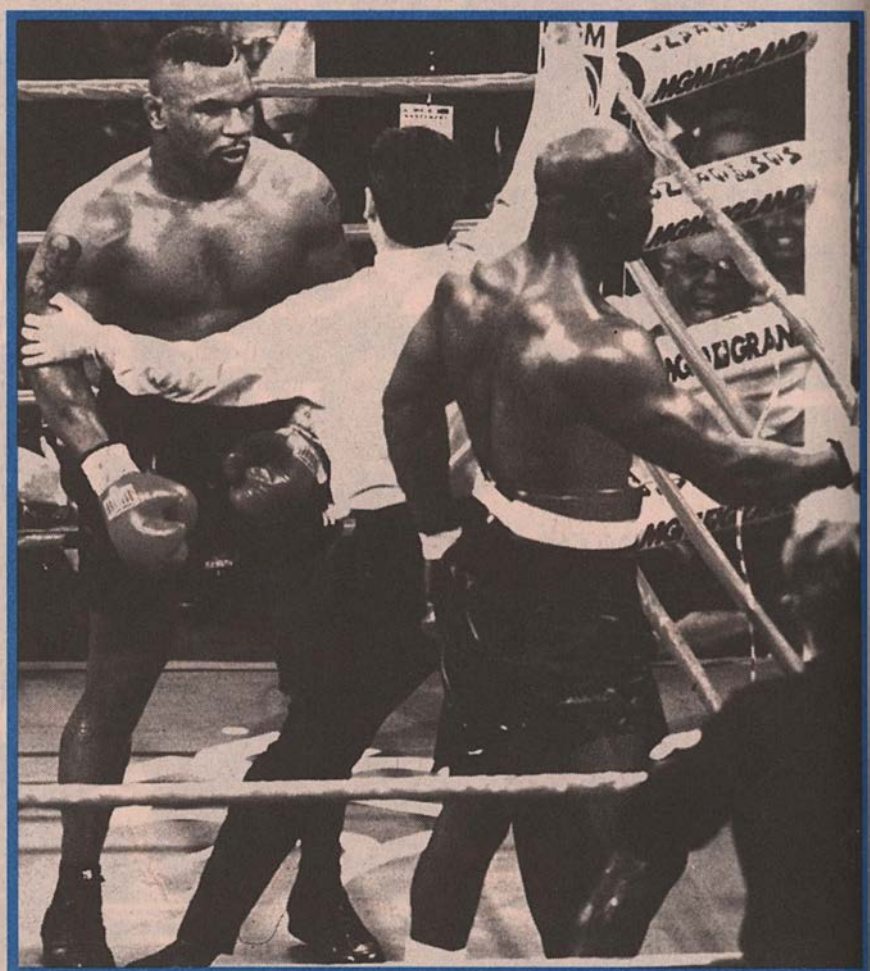
Reid: "Holyfield is more on a 45-degree angle, where Tyson is squared up. Holyfield is set back, and that allows him to counter with the right hand with power. It's the angle he gives you that's the key. I can't see him not being able to do that again."

4. Tyson telegraphing his hook: This was the primary reason Holyfield countered so well with his right hand.

Steward: "Evander completely neutralized Tyson's left hook. He saw it coming every time. Tyson has to jab. That's the weapon he should focus on. Unless he throws the jab a lot, Evander will see the left hook coming. But with a good jab, when the hooks start coming, Evander will work overtime, not knowing if he has to reach forward to parry the jab or keep his right hand back to block the hook."

Reid: "When Tyson loads up his punches, he telegraphs them. That's what he did in the first fight. He has to group his punches. The accumulation of punches is what will beat Holyfield."

(Continued on page 60)



What psychological effects, if any, will Tyson suffer as a result of his stoppage loss in the first fight? Should he have bolstered his confidence with a kayo win before the rematch?

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CRUISERWT CH: Vacant 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Roy Jones, Jr. 4-Adolfo Washington 5-Robert Daniels 6-Ralf Rocchigianii 7-Torsten May 8-Akim Tafer 9-Anaclet Wamba 10-Fabrice Tiozzo

LT HEAVYWT CH: Vacant 1-Virgil Hill 2-Roy Jones, Jr. 3-Dariusz Michalczewski 4-Montell Griffin 5-Henry Maske 6-Graciano Rocchigiani 7-James Toney 8-Drake Thazdi 9-Rocky Gannon 10-Eddy Smulders

SP MIDDLEWT CH: Eddie White 1-Roy Jones, Jr. 2-Steve Collins 3-Mads Larsen 4-Robin Reid 5-Frank Liles 6-Joseph Kiwanuka 7-Charles Brewer 8-Vinnie Pazienza 9-Shannon Lanberg 10-Anwar Oshana

MIDDLEWT CH: Vacant 1-Keith Holmes 2-William Joppy 3-Bernard Hopkins 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-Lonnie Bradley 6-Quincy Taylor 7-John David Jackson 8-Glen Johnson 9-Otis Grant 10-Jorge Castro

JR. MIDDLEWT CH: Manny Sobral 1-Terry Norris 2-Hector Camacho 3-Winky Wright 4-Paul Vaden 5-Laurent Boudaouani 6-Raul Marquez 7-Crisanto Espana 8-Bronco McKart 9-Greg Lonan 10-Yori Boy Campas

WELTERWT CH: Kevin Lueshing 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Ike Quartey 3-Oscar De La Hoya 4- Jose Luis Lopez 5-Pernell Whitaker 6-Gary Murray 7-Patrick Charpentier 8-Wilfredo Rivera 9-Oba Carr 10-Diobelys Hurtado

JR. WELTERWT CH: Johar Lashin 1-Oscar De La Hoya 2-Kosta Tszyu 3-Miguel Angel Gonzalez 4-Soren Sondergaard 5-Khalid Rahilou 6-Julio Cesar Ohavez 7-Frankie Randall 8-Giovanni Parisi 9-David Kamau 10-Rodney Wilson

LIGHTWT CH: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Phillip Holiday 3-Steve Johnston 4-Shane Mosley 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Johnny Montantez 10-Gabriel Ruelas

JR. LIGHTWT CH: Troy Dorsey 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Regilio Tuur 3-Azumah Nelson 4-Jimmii Bredahi 5-Yong Soo Choi 6-Anatoli Alexandrov 7-Saul Duran 8-Joel Casamayor 9-Tracy Patterson 10-Israel Cardona

FEATHERWT CH: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wifredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Francisco Segura 6-Kevin Kelly 7-Eloy Rojas 8-Mike Garcia 9-Welcome Ncita 10-Nestor Garza

JR. FEATHERWT CH: Sergei Devakov 1-Junior Jones 2-Antonio Cermeno 3-Marco Antonio Barrera 4-Vuyani Bungu 5-Daniel Zaragoza 6-Kennedy McKinney 7-Orlando Canizales 8-Alfred Kotey 9-Wayne McCullough 10-Jesus Salud

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JR. BANTAMWT CH: Angel Almena 1- Johnny Tapia 2-Danny Romero 3-Gerry Penalosa 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Yokhai Sithoar 6-Carlos Salazar 7-Domingo Sosa 8-Alimi Goitia 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

FLYWT CH: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Mark Johnson 3-Jesus Zuniga 4-Jose Bonilla 5-Jesper D. Jensen 6-Jose Luis Zepeda 7-Sean Sow Pleonchit 8-Alberto Jimenez 9-Will Grigsby 10-Arthur Johnson

JR. FLYWT CH: Saman Sorjaturong 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Keji Yamaguchi 3-Maricio Pastrana 4-Hi-Yong Choi 5-Jake Matlala 6-Manuel J. Herrera 7-Michael Carbajal 8-Hadao C.P. Gym 9-Carlos Murillo 10-Eric Griffin

MINI FLYWT CH: Ricardo Lopez 1-Ratanapol Vorapin 2-Rosendo Alvarez 3-Alex Sanchez 4-Kermin Guardia 5-Juan Herrera 6-R. Sow Voraphin 7-Rafael Orozco 8-Chana Porpaoin 9-Ala Villamor 10-Edgar Cardenas

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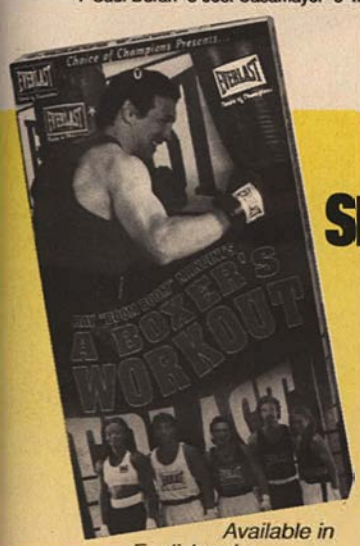

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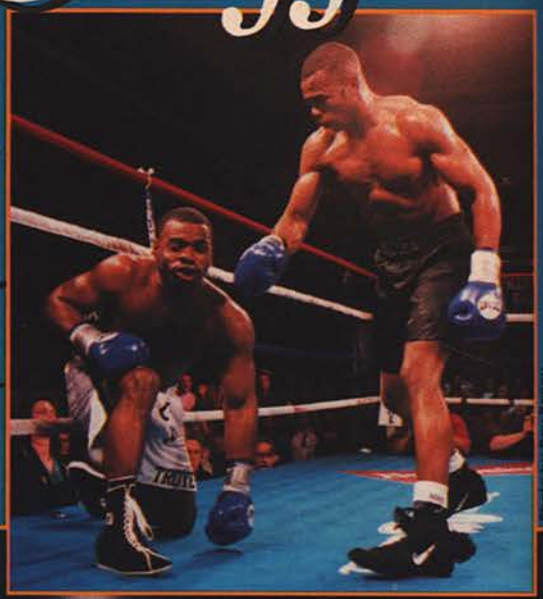
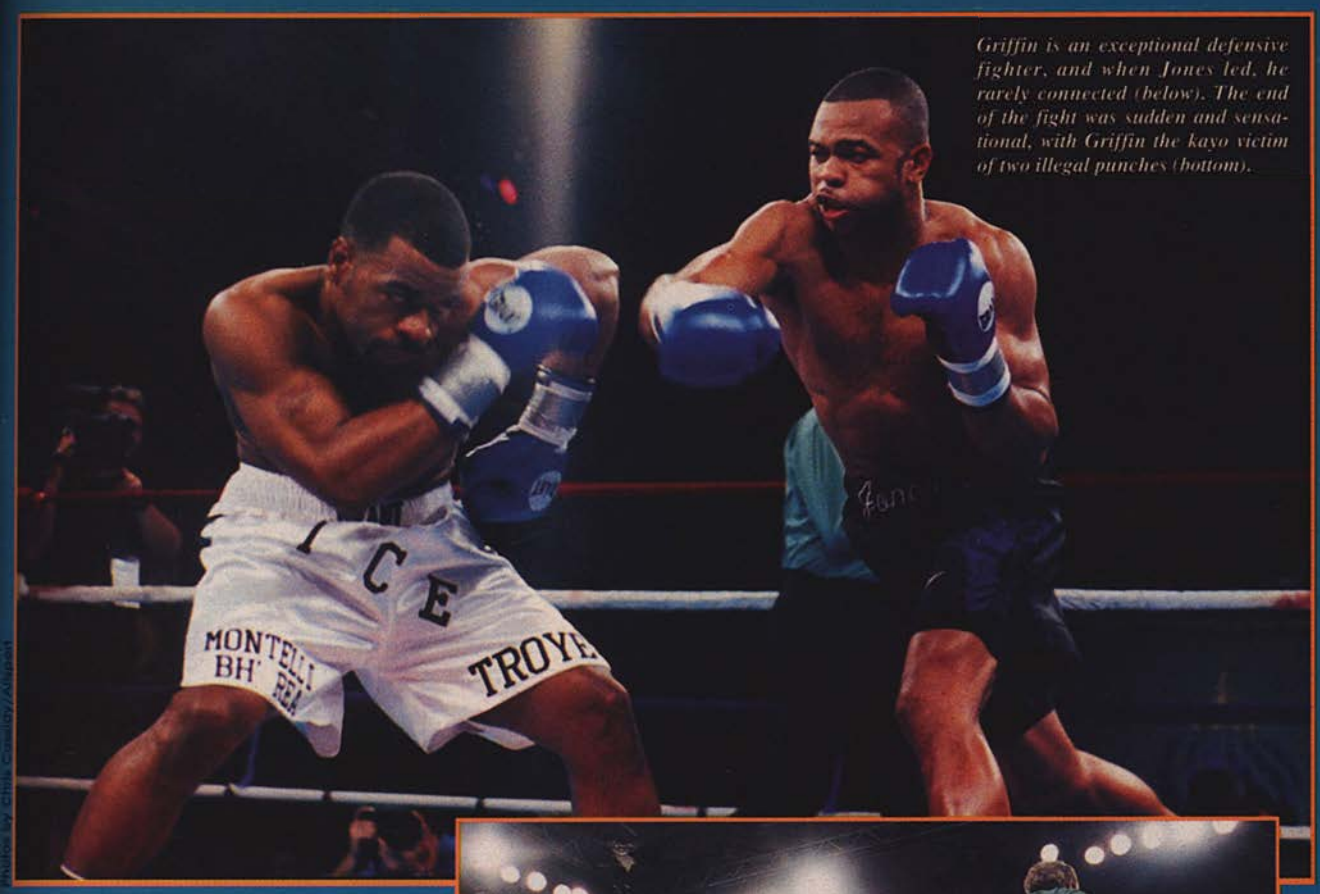
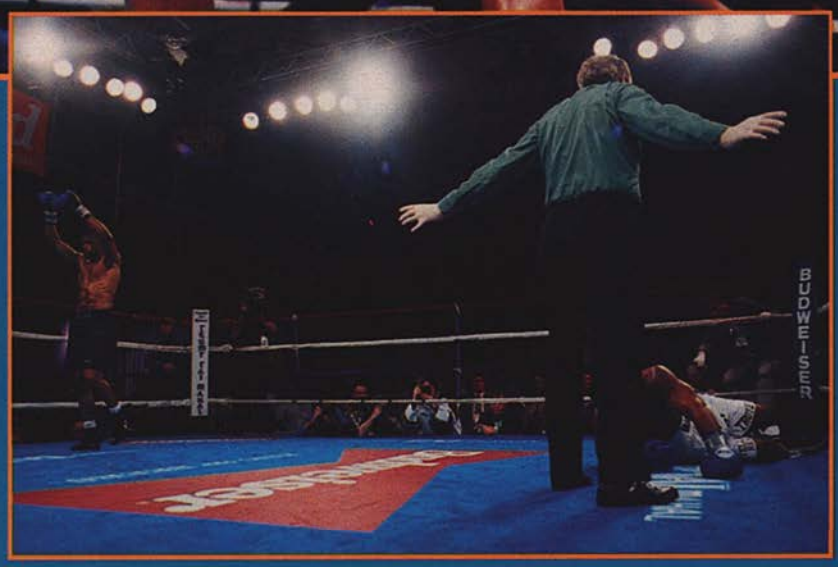


Photo by Ray Kelley



Griffin is an exceptional defensive fighter, and when Jones led, he rarely connected (below). The end of the fight was sudden and sensational, with Griffin the kayo victim of two illegal punches (bottom).

Photos by Chris Cassidy/Allsport



By Steve Farhood

As the prelims wound down, Montell Griffin sat on a folding chair in his dressing room. He would be summoned in an hour or so, and as Eddie Futch silently taped Griffin's hands, the light heavyweight was already steely-eyed and focused. Rap music was coming out of a box, but Griffin wasn't tapping his feet.

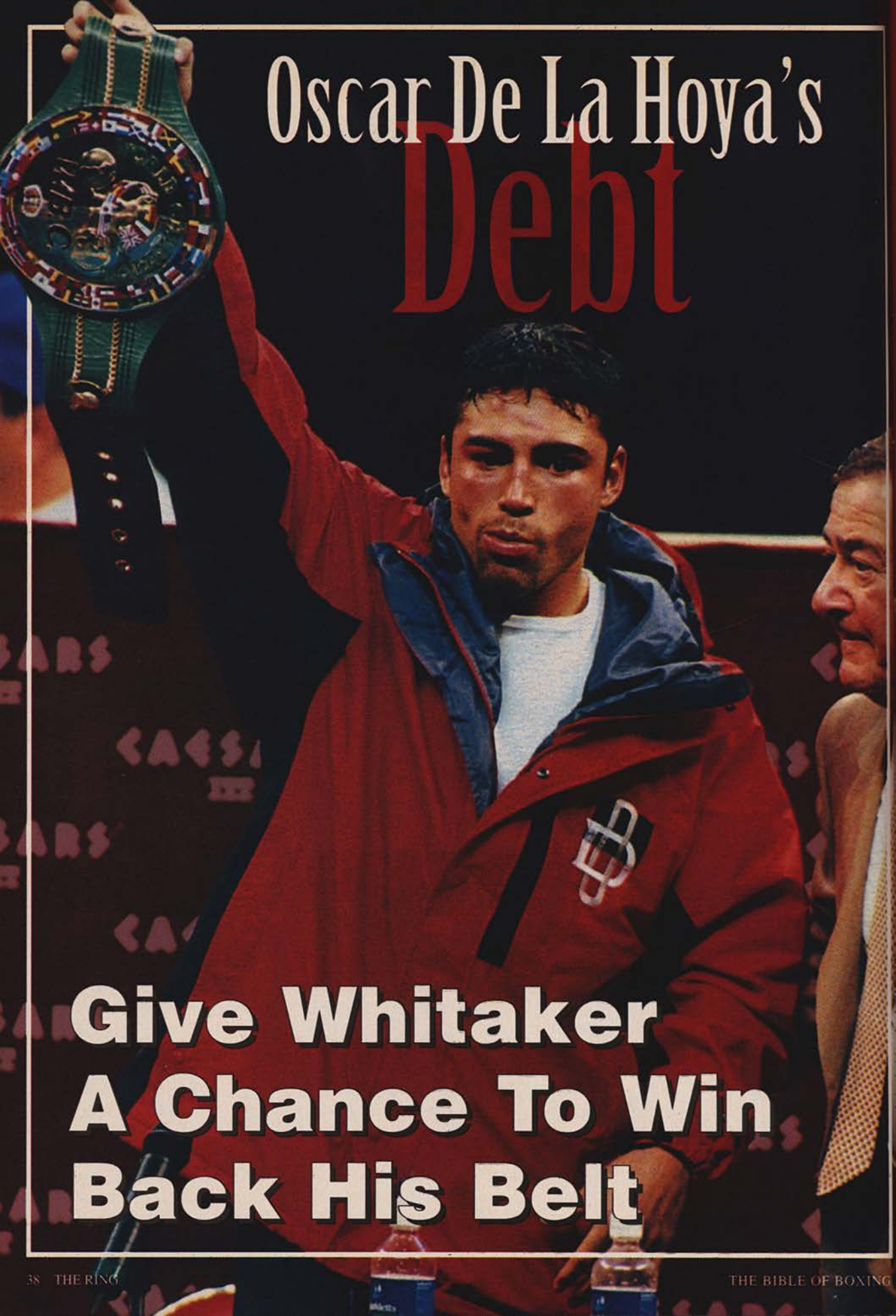
A fly on the wall looked for a sign. Was Griffin, who was about to challenge WBC light heavyweight champion and pound-for-pound leader Roy Jones before a crowd of 2,400 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and millions more on HBO, tight or loose? Was he confident? Overconfident? Scared out of his boxing boots? It was tough to say. Like a high-stakes poker player, Griffin wasn't blinking. The fly left the room wondering, *Might this guy know something we don't know?*

A little while later, as Griffin was readied for his ring walk, HBO ran a feature including tape of Jones playsparring with Muhammad Ali. Jones has accompanied "The Greatest" on various stops of Ali's "Healing" tour, and given his ring skills, and especially his calm, self-assured manner in promoting peace and goodwill, more than one observer has projected him as the Ali of his generation.

Being compared to your idol and hero—it doesn't get any better than that. But maybe somebody should've warned Jones that as masterful as Ali was, there was that one opponent he was never going to easily beat. Forget the scoreboard: had Ali fought Ken Norton 50 times, every fight would've been a headache. As it was, the heavyweights clashed three times, with all three bouts even on points going into the last round. You know who taped Ken Norton's hands for each of those three fights, don't you?

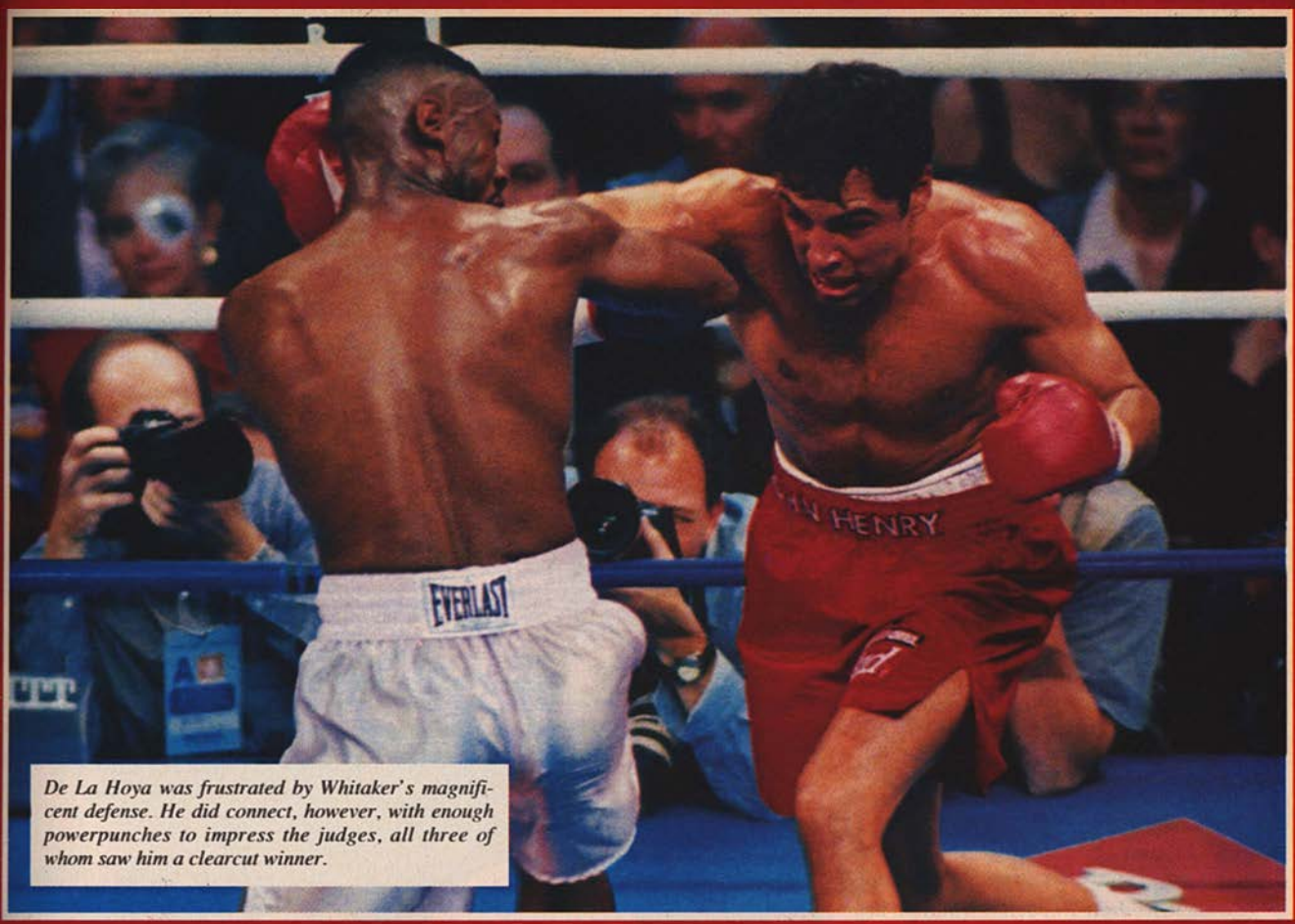
Fact is, Montell Griffin just might turn out to be *everyone's* Ken Norton. Who ever heard of a 5'7" light heavyweight, and one who would rather jab than fight inside? (We'll spot you Dwight Qawi, but that's it.) Griffin's reach barely extends past his nose. That didn't stop him from making the 1992

(Continued on page 54)



Oscar De La Hoya's Debt

Give Whitaker A Chance To Win Back His Belt



De La Hoya was frustrated by Whitaker's magnificent defense. He did connect, however, with enough powerpunches to impress the judges, all three of whom saw him a clearcut winner.

By Steve Farhood

Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a mismatch: On June 14, WBC welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya has a date at the Alamodome in San Antonio with David Kamau.

Pick up the phone and break it!

Whatta ya wanna do tonight, Oscar? I dunno, whatta you wanna do, Hector?: On September 13, De La Hoya plans an evening of mucho mayhem with Hector Camacho in Las Vegas.

Send a machogram and cancel it!

We have to stop meeting like this. People are starting to talk: In December, De La Hoya will square off against the WBC's top-ranked contender, Patrick Charpentier of France.

Hey, Jose, instead of a mandatory defense, how about a mandatory *rematch?*

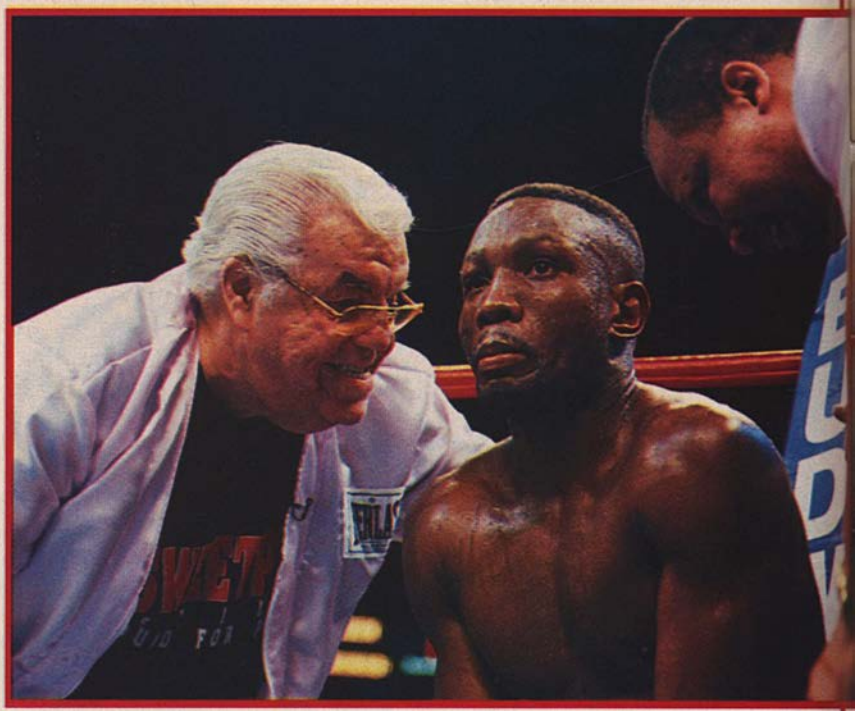
Cool, hip, very *now*, Oscar De La Hoya is in tight with the "in" crowd, and Pernell Whitaker is not. Always a bit different from the others in the pod, "Sweet Pea" is apparently going to be ignored. Whitaker reminded us just how different he still is on April 12, when, making his ninth defense, he lost the 147-pound crown to De La Hoya at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. Promoter Bob Arum has provided his own set of alliterative synonyms for different, as the word applies to Whitaker: difficult, dangerous, damn tough to sell again.

"We'd like to see a rematch. We'll work for it," said HBO's Lou DiBella.

"It's sad we're going to have to do this again, and I am going to have to knock him out for real," said Whitaker.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

It wasn't only Whitaker who played defense. A drastically improved boxer, De La Hoya also proved difficult to hit, with Whitaker landing only 40 percent of his punches.



A third-round butt opened a tiny cut under De La Hoya's right eye (above) and cost Whitaker a point. Despite the urgings of trainers Lou Duva and Ronnie Shields (right), Whitaker gave away the 12th round by dancing.

"It was a dull, stinking fight," said Arum, who didn't specify whether he was speaking from the heart or just launching negotiations for De La Hoya-Whitaker II. "I don't want to see it again. Between Oscar and Top Rank, we should make $15-million [for the pay-per-view-televised fight on April 12]. If someone would give us $15-million, okay. But to do a rematch just to do a rematch is not good business."

What about good sportsmanship? That is never among a promoter's concerns, but De La Hoya is a big golden boy who can make up his own mind. "I would love a rematch," he said moments after defeating Whitaker by unanimous—and controversial—decision. He later added, "The rematch? Of course I will give it to him. We'll have to work something out." And finally, three days after the fight: "I call the shots. I'll fight him anywhere, anytime."

De La Hoya and Arum's good cop-bad cop act aside, will there be a rematch or not? When we're provided with a conclusive answer, one of these two partners is going to be exposed as something less than a man of his word. Given that Arum was long ago immortalized for saying, "Yesterday I was lying; today I'm telling the truth," all the pressure is on De La Hoya.

"I won't feel fulfilled until I beat that southpaw style," De La Hoya said after the fight. Well, what's it gonna be, Golden Boy? Will you do the right thing? We're waiting, and so is Whitaker.

***

De La Hoya owes Whitaker. Firstly, as Team Whitaker repeatedly reminded us during the prefight hype, their man gave The Golden Boy a shot *by choice*. (Obviously, a $6-million purse had something to do with his willingness to sign, but it wasn't as if HBO had previously been paying Sweet Pea in peanuts.) Payback may or may not turn out to be a bitch, but it's definitely a must.

Secondly, only three of the 12,200 in attendance at Thomas & Mack, veteran Nevada big-fight judges Chuck Giampa,

Jerry Roth, and Dalby Shirley, thought De La Hoya won by a comfortable margin. THE RING spoke to dozens of ringsiders, as well as fans and insiders who watched on pay-per-view, and while opinion was roughly 50-50 on which fighter deserved the decision, virtually everyone saw it as a one- or two-point fight. (Interestingly, in what was a very difficult bout to score, the judges agreed on eight of the 12 rounds.)

Thirdly, the bout did next to nothing to clear up the pound-for-pound issue. Is De La Hoya now deserving of the top spot? Should Whitaker be rated first until somebody convincingly knocks him off the perch? Does Roy Jones belong ahead of both of them? Sorry, but the pound-for-pound puzzle is just like the one that runs in *The New York Times* Sunday magazine: There are no easy answers.

Arum's contention that "half our audience was Mexican-American homes, and Mexican-Americans don't like this style of fighting" is obliterated by the fact that De La Hoya's next pay-per-view biggie is scheduled to come against the eternally marketable Camacho. If De La Hoya-Whitaker was a chess match (at grandmaster level, mind you), De La Hoya-Camacho will be checkers at a crawl. Last we checked, De La Hoya's fans weren't screaming, "Please, Oscar, don't fight Whitaker again. We want to see you square off with The Macho Man!" Moreover, there's no demand whatsoever to see De La Hoya defend against Kamau or Charpentier. To put it another way, it's not as if a Whitaker rematch is going to come at the expense of De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad or De La Hoya-Kostya Tszyu. Those superfights won't materialize until next year at best.

***

Before their showdown, both De La Hoya and Whitaker were presented with tasks far more difficult than they seemed. As a chalkboard message in his dressing

OSCAR AND THE PROFESSOR

In February 1995, Oscar De La Hoya, then a lightweight, struggled through the toughest night of his career. What was supposed to be a fight against John-John Molina turned into a mugging, with De La Hoya the victim. After escaping with a decision win, "The Golden Boy" spotted his promoter, Bob Arum. "I need help," was the first thing he said.

Enter "The Professor."

If De La Hoya establishes a lasting greatness, Jesus Rivero, 69, will deserve much of the credit. A few days after the Molina fight, Arum called veteran Mexican manager Rafael Mendoza, who in turn called Rivero. Only one problem: Rivero had been retired for 15 years.

"I had never seen De La Hoya fight," Rivero said through an interpreter. "When I reviewed the tapes they sent me, I thought, *Boy, does this kid need help!* Especially when I saw the Molina fight. There were a lot of things that needed correcting. Oscar didn't have the proper stance for punching with leverage ... he couldn't get an advantage on distance ... moving back and forth was a problem. I'd say at the time, De La Hoya's defense and power were his biggest assets, but he could not get off the ropes."

Rivero grew up in Merida, Yucatan. He won the national amateur flyweight crown, but fought only five times as a professional. His father, a successful businessman, enrolled him at Mexico City's Autoroma de Mexico University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

"I majored in law, philosophy, and history for five years," Rivero recalled, "but with all the boxing in the city, I wasn't very far from the action."

When Rivero turned to training, he developed such national champions as Tony Mar, Nicholas Moran, and Memo Valero, and also worked with Kid Azteca and Hall of Fame bantamweight king Manuel Ortiz. But it was his training of legendary flyweight Miguel Canto that boosted The Professor's reputation. Canto, who reigned from 1975 to '79, made 14 successful defenses and was regarded as one of the greatest defensive fighters in history.

"Miguel was from Merida, too, and we had a great run on top," said Rivero. "When he lost his last three bouts, I retired him, and I quit, too. And I'll quit for good again when Oscar retires."

Rivero vividly remembers his first meeting with The Golden Boy, who had previously been trained by

Photo by Chris Farina

Robert Alcazar. "We shook hands," The Professor said, "and Oscar said, 'I know I have plenty to learn, but I'll work very hard if you'll teach me.' After we had been [training] at Big Bear for about 10 months, De La Hoya finished a workout one afternoon and said, 'I feel I've learned more in one month with you, Professor, than in the 10 years since I started boxing.'

"De La Hoya has tremendous dedication to succeed. He is a young man with a strong character. When I discussed the possibility of learning to tap dance to improve his footing, he snapped, 'Let's do it.' We haven't used the tap dancing yet, but we might do it. Oscar learned a lot with Whitaker, and you'll see a marked improvement in his next fight."

–Jack Welsh

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Among the lessons De La Hoya learned: When Whitaker gets low, the only way to hit him is to go down and get him. De La Hoya was more aggressive than Whitaker, though not often effectively so.

room reminded him, the key for The Golden Boy was going to be focus. He knew he would be facing not only a great champion, but one whose style was virtually impossible to prepare for. As skilled at being abrasive as De La Hoya is at being politically correct, Whitaker tested his adversary's composure by charging that the challenger has avoided black opponents. The image-conscious De La Hoya was lucky his response, made to Ron Borges of the *Boston Globe*, didn't get wider play in the press. "To tell you the truth," he said, "African-Americans don't have a heart. They can't take it to the body. They give up right away. That's what I've seen. No African-American can take my punch."

To which Whitaker might've replied, "But it has to land first."

It was Whitaker's job to train with the zest and enthusiasm he displayed when trash-talking. In indifferent defenses against Gary Jacobs, Wilfredo Rivera, and especially Diobelys Hurtado, the 33-year-old champion's legs were well-worn radials begging for relief. Would a training camp of more rolling hills and less Rolling Rock result in a Holyfield-like performance of a lifetime? Or would his fading balance and reflexes be cruelly exposed by a younger, bigger, fresher foe?

"No one has faced this Pernell Whitaker in years, probably since before the [Julio Cesar] Chavez fight," Sweet Pea said four days before clashing with De La Hoya. "I'm excited because training camp went so right for me. Five weeks went so great. Hopefully, it comes down to being prepared."

The bettors, swayed more by Whitaker's loose form than his tight abs, made De La Hoya a 3-1 favorite. It was clear from the get-go, however, that The Golden Boy was facing a wizard who planned to sprinkle Frustration Dust from corner to corner. A knockout win? Simply hitting Whitaker became the goal of the moment.

In some ways, the fight defied logic. The southpaw Whitaker, 4½ inches shorter than De La Hoya and presumably handicapped by a three-inch reach disadvantage, was far more effective with his jab. De La Hoya, the far bigger puncher, was most successful when backing up. And Whitaker, behind on all three cards, boxed the 12th and final round as if half-a-dozen knockdowns had given him an insurmountable lead on points. Oh, yeah, one more thing: De La Hoya repeatedly switched to southpaw, which confused the fans and media, but not Whitaker.

During referee Mills Lane's final

(Continued on page 55)

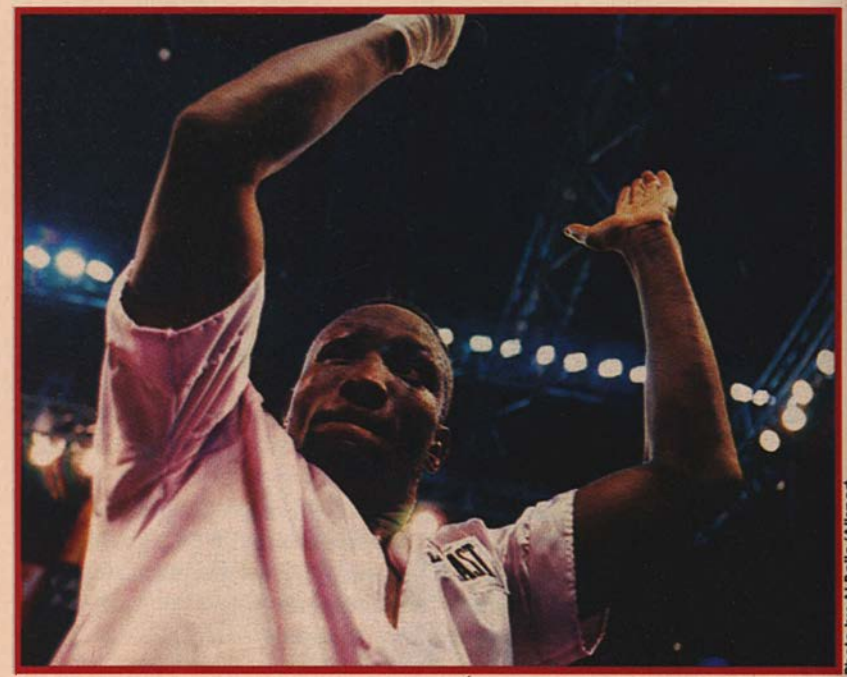


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

No longer a champion, Whitaker plays to the crowd while leaving the ring. Like his buddy Evander Holyfield, who cheered for him from ringside, the veteran warrior managed to summon a magical effort. It wasn't enough, however, to secure an upset victory.

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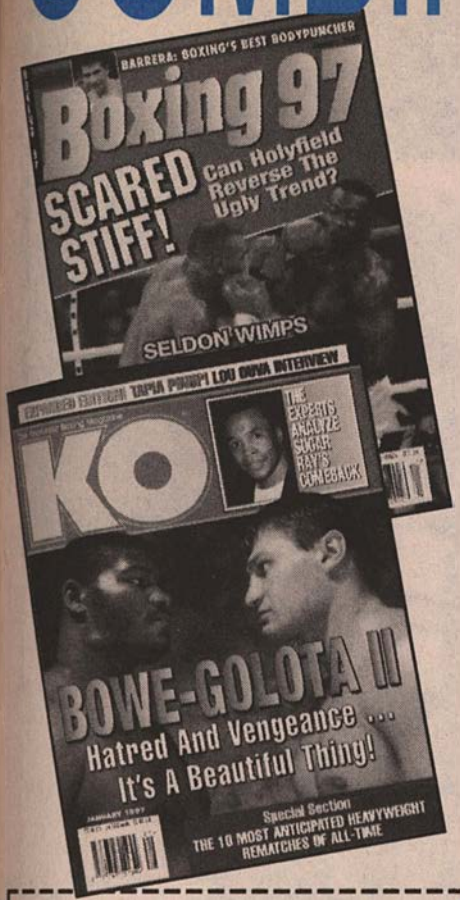

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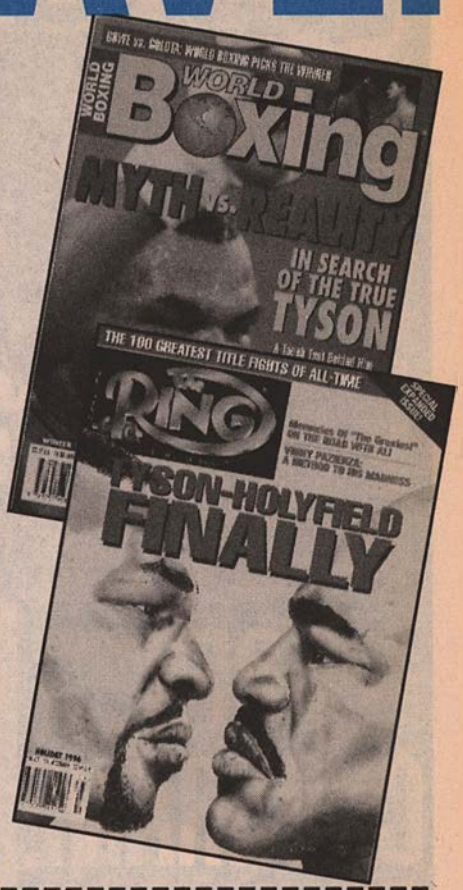

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FORMER WELTER CHAMP

RED COCHRANE

"Half These Guys Fighting Now Couldn't Beat Me"

By Pete Ehrmann

The one-bedroom apartment is in the midst of a sprawling urban area of more than one million residents, but to Freddie "Red" Cochrane, it might as well be on the North Pole.

"I gotta be in the middle of a metropolis," says the 77-year-old resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "I could walk down the block in Brooklyn and talk to 20 people. I could walk two hours here and talk to nobody."

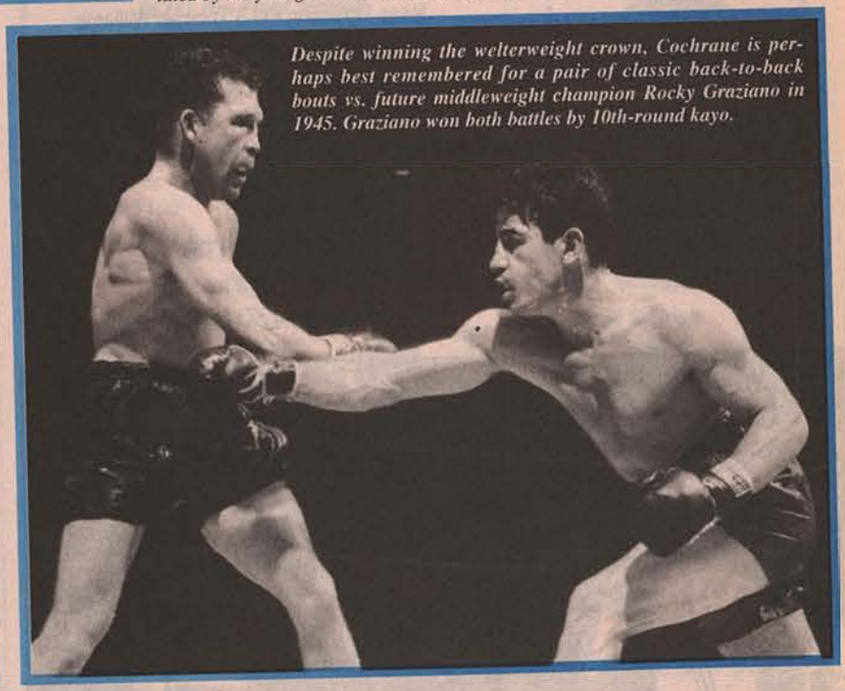
His tiny living room is simply furnished. The walls are covered with framed photographs, mostly of family, including the daughter Cochrane left New York to be near before Christmas. But not long after that, she moved to California, and now the former welterweight champion of the world is by himself, in a city where the only boxing gym he has been able to locate is miles away, and open only from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m.

"That's not a gym," snorts Cochrane. In New York, he used to go several times a month to Gleason's Gym, where you can hear the bags being punched as you walk up the street.

The only mementos left of his 17-year, 117-bout ring career are 10 or so pictures. One is an autographed photo of Rocky Graziano, with whom Cochrane had two classic battles at Madison Square Garden a half-century ago, including THE RING's

(Continued on page 61)

When Cochrane lifted the world welterweight title from Fritzie Zivic in 1941 (left), it was a huge upset. The challenger had 30 losses on his record, and Zivic had dethroned the legendary Henry Armstrong. The new champion is congratulated by his younger brother Ned and manager Willie Gilzenberg (above).



Despite winning the welterweight crown, Cochrane is perhaps best remembered for a pair of classic back-to-back bouts vs. future middleweight champion Rocky Graziano in 1945. Graziano won both battles by 10th-round kayo.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Michael Moorer W 12 Vaughn Bean
(Retains IBF Title)
David Tua KO 11 Oleg Maskaev
Buster Douglas KO 6 Brian Scott
Obed Sullivan KO 12 Levi Billups
Levi Billups KO 6 Terrence Lewis
Larry Donald W 12 Ahmad Abdin
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Melton Bowen
Joe Hipp KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Jesse Ferguson KO 8 Thomas Williams
Danell Nicholson KO 2 Marcos Gonzalez
Jerry Ballard KO 7 Lyle McDowell
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Mike Rabe
Nate Jones W 4 Ricardo Phillips
Butterbean KO 2 Ed White

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Fabrice Tiozzo W 10 Mike Peak
Don Diego Poeder KO 5 John Kiser

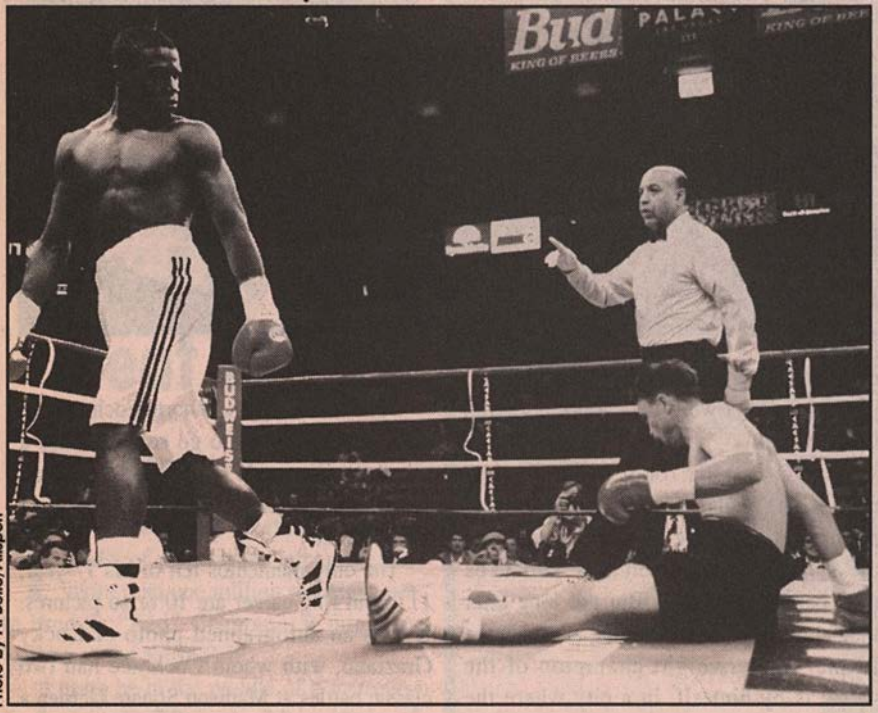


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Floyd Mayweather Jr. bombs Bobby Geipert in one round

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

William Guthrie KO 3 Jamie Stevenson
Graciano Rocchigiani W 10 John Scully
Frank Tate W 10 Cliff Nellon
Chris Eubank KO 4 Camilo Alarcon
Eric Lucas KO 7 Darrell Flint

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Joe Calzaghe KO 1 Tyler Hughes
Tarick Salmaci W Disq. 10 Jerry Cheatham
Dean Francis KO 7 Cornelius Carr
Kevin Pompey W 8 Nate Woods
Anwar Oshana W 12 Bruce Rumbolz
Leif Keiski KO 4 Paul Busby

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Thomas Tate KO 2 Arthur Willis
Julio Cesar Green KO 4 Bernice Barber
Glen Odum KO 8 Vincent Thompson
Shawn O'Sullivan W 8 Robbie Stowell

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Raul Marquez KO 9 Anthony Stephens
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Laurent Boudouani W 12 Carl Daniels
(Retains WBA Title)
Emmett Linton KO 7 Donald Curry
Javier Castillejo W 10 Fernando Riera
Ryan Rhodes KO 7 Del Bryan
Mark Breland W 10 Rick Haynes

WELTERWEIGHTS

Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Pernell Whitaker
(Wins WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez W 10 Tony Martin
Wilfredo Rivera KO 3 Livingstone Bramble
Antonio Rivera KO 1 Ken Sigurani
Larry Barnes D 10 Rick Edson
Andrew Murray KO 11 Ricardo Simarra
Adrian Stone KO 6 Jong Jong Pacquing
Juan Soberanes KO 4 Edwin Cassiani

Juan Negron W Disq. 3 Enrique Sanchez
Marco Antonio Lizarraga W Disq. 12
Rene Herrera
Rocky Balboa KO 7 Sammy Fuentes

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Ray Oliveira W 12 Charles Murray
Mickey Ward KO 7 Alfonso Sanchez

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Shane Mosley KO 4 Mike Smith
John-John Molina W Disq. 4 Isaac Cruz
Wilfredo Negron KO 1 Juan "Kid" Meza

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Cesar Soto KO 2 Elias Quiroz
Carlos Gerena KO 7 Lucilo Nolasco
Rudy Zavala KO 3 Ruben Castillo
Juan Arias KO 6 Jose Herrera
Diego Corrales KO 4 Steve Quinonez Jr.
Floyd Mayweather Jr. KO 1 Bobby Geipert

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Wilfredo Vazquez KO 5 Yuji Watanabe
(Retains WBA Title)
Erik Morales KO 8 Concepcion Velasquez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Joichiro Tatsuyoshi
(Retains WBC Title)
Vuyani Bungu W 12 Kennedy McKinney
(Retains IBF Title)
Paulie Ayala W 10 Nestor Lopez
Enrique Jupiter KO 6 Antonio Salas
Michael Brodie KO 10 Neil Swain

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Daorung C. Siriwat W 12 Felix Machado
(Retains WBA Title)

FLYWEIGHTS

Eric Morel KO 2 Jesus Jimenez
Eric Morel W 4 Jesus Lopez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez W 12 Mongkol Chareon
(Retains WBC Title)
Nene Sanchez W 12 Victor Burgos

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Until March 22, dignity had all but disappeared from boxing. It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game? Whoever said that had long been dismissed as a chump. Besides, boxing ain't no game. It's a business. Winning means money, and money is why they curl their fingers into fists to begin with.

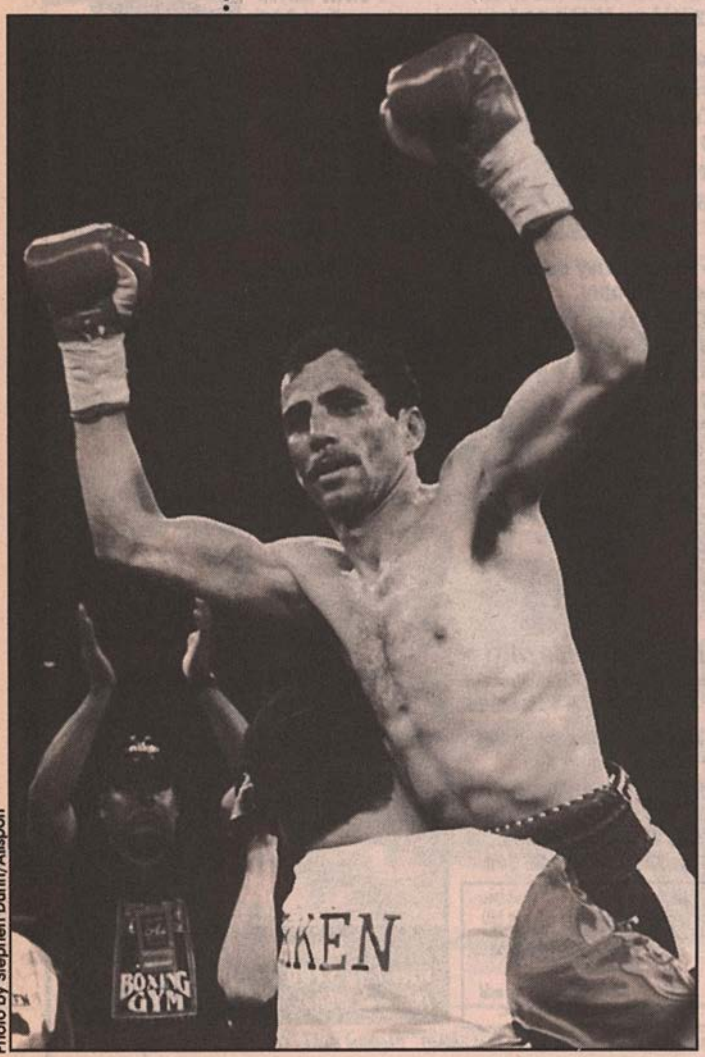


Photo by Stephen Dunn/Allsport

Dignity? Luis Santana had spit on the word, Juan Coggi had stomped on it, and Andrew Golota had offered the Polish translation, which presumably has something to do with hitting an opponent low so often that he thinks he's having a baby.

Maybe Genaro Hernandez was stupid for opting to fight on after absorbing a debilitating—and illegal—blow to the throat during his junior lightweight title fight with Azumah Nelson. After all, he could have stuffed the win in his pocket and left the arena with promises of big paydays ahead. Instead, he reminded boxing fans what a sportsman is. Hernandez wanted to *earn* his victory. That was such an original thought, everyone thought he was crazy.

Hernandez probably won't be the Fighter of the Year, but he's already a lock for Hero of the Year

• • • •

Genaro Hernandez

Raul Marquez KO 9 Anthony Stephens

Las Vegas, Nevada: In one of the bloodiest fights in recent memory, Marquez won the vacant IBF junior middleweight title, stopping Stephens at 1:47 of the ninth round at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino. The title had been vacated by Terry Norris. Norris kept the WBC crown, which he is scheduled to defend against Felix Trinidad.

Almost all of the blood was produced by headbutts, and not punches. The southpaw Marquez, 153, Houston, Texas, was the aggressor throughout, as the cautious Stephens, 154, Metairie, Louisiana, moved almost exclusively to his right. Stephens was looking to counter with his right, and over the first two rounds his strategy was successful.

All but ignoring his lead hand, Marquez first broke through in the fourth, connecting with a counter left that forced Stephens to hold. In the fifth, a butt opened an ugly gash on Marquez' hairline. One round later, Stephens suffered a long cut on his right eyelid. That was the worst wound of the war, but by the finish, Marquez showed another hairline cut, as well as a slice on his right eyelid. In all, he took 30 stitches.

"I'm a very slow starter," said Marquez. "When we hit heads the first time and I was bleeding, it made me fight harder. We studied tapes and we saw that [Stephens] always hit heads. He had an awkward style and he made me look bad, but the important thing is that I won the title."

The 25-year-old Marquez did that by pressuring Stephens until his opponent could do little but clinch. Stephens, 28-8-2 (16), rallied briefly in the eighth, but his tank was emptying at a rapid pace. Early in the ninth, a violent clash of foreheads sent Stephens to the floor, with referee Richard Steele (USA) incorrectly ruling a knockdown. (From THE RING's ringside seat, it looked as if a left hand had downed Stephens. Replays clearly proved otherwise.) That marked the beginning of the end. A short time later, Marquez struck with a left, then another, and then one more that drove Stephens back, prompting Steele to call what some felt was a premature halt at the 1:47 mark.

"I don't think he should've stopped it," Stephens, 32, said of Steele. "The knockdown came from a butt." The loser's camp planned to protest.

This was Stephens' second title try. In October 1993, he was stopped in the 10th round by IBF welterweight champion Trinidad.

After eight rounds, Marquez led on all three cards, with John Stewart and Bill Graham scoring 78-74 and Sheila Harmon Martin 77-75. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had the fight even at 76-76.

The bout was televised by ABC.

Promoter: Top Rank

(4-12-97)

Steve Farhood

Michael Moorer W 12 Vaughn Bean

Las Vegas, Nevada: The next time IBF champion Moorer takes a moment to reflect on why the fight crowd censures him as a super-negative in the heavyweight sweepstakes, the moody man-child need only rerun a tape of his last exercise before 8,018 at the Las Vegas Hilton Center.

The 29-year-old sometimes-fighter Moorer, 212, Detroit, surfaced as the luckiest of reluctant dragons in keeping the title for the second time. His challenger, the unsung, unskilled, and unready Bean, 212, Chicago, came closer than expected, extending Moorer to a majority decision.

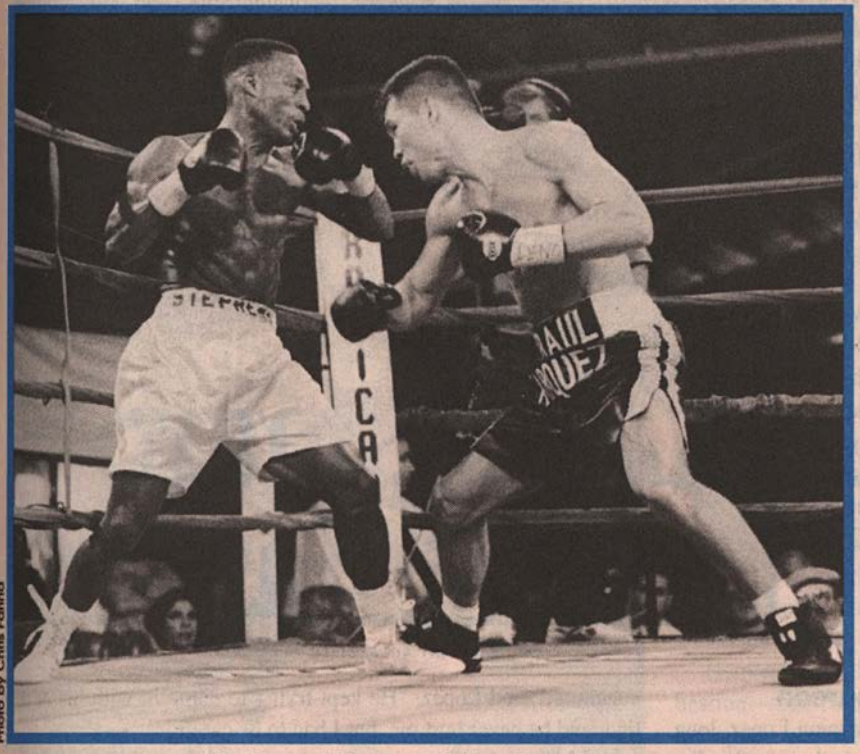


Photo by Chris Farina

Stephens and Marquez traded punches and butts

It's safe to assume that immediately after the main event, Barron Hilton, the international chain's major domo, ordered his lieutenants to fumigate the fight venue. If promoter Don King was saving his best for last on another of those 11-bout cards, the joke was on him. And here's the ultimate laugher: After earning $3,642,500 for the Bean defense, it's anticipated Moorer will meet the winner of Holyfield-Tyson II in a unification bout. (Bean was paid $500,000.)

Moorer did throw enough punches to improve to 39-1 (34), but the performance of the only southpaw heavyweight champion in history was nothing to boast about. Bean, 27-1 (21), gave his first name opponent, and only his third foe with a winning record, too much respect while waiting to counter, but at no time did he ever appear intimidated as he lunged wildly, arching left hooks that sometimes caught the champion on the temple.

For the record, the combined mark of Bean's previous opponents at the time of

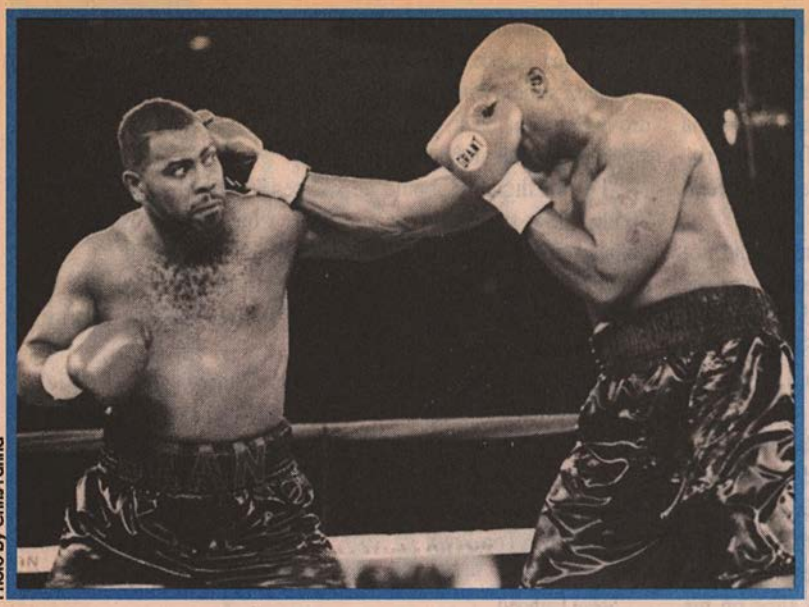


Photo by Chris Farina

Bean and Moorer produced an all-time yawner

the bouts was 109-247-3. Now their records are 126-402-5.

Moorer was a 6-1 favorite, but he looked more like a struggling clubfighter. He had no trouble backing up the off-balance Bean, who was tutored by Joe Frazier and Michael Spinks but resembled neither of them. After one or two jabs to the head, he'd allow the challenger to regain the center of the ring. Like Moorer, Bean, 23, rarely punched in combination. If he had a best weapon, it was his left hook, occasionally delivered in the form of an uppercut. Moorer's right eye was bruised at the end.

Jerry Roth and Bill Graham scored 115-113 and 116-113, respectively, while Dave Moretti saw it 114-114. THE RING had Moorer ahead by 117-111. The referee was Mitch Halpern. All four officials are from the USA.

In fairness to the judges, the action was so limited in some of the rounds that a punch or two could have swung votes.

Moorer made no apologies for his indifferent showing. "The way I see it," he said, "Bean's style didn't make for a very exciting fight. I don't want to take anything away from him, but styles make fights."

Teddy Atlas, Moorer's trainer, did not show up at the postfight press conference, and less than 24 houts after the fight, announced he was through with Moorer. "The differences are too many," he said. "I told him in camp that if he didn't do things my way, this was my last fight. I have fulfilled my obligation. I have no guilt. I did my job last night as well as I could. I did everything I could to win the fight."

The bout was televised by Showtime.

(3-29-97)

Jack Welsh

Ricardo Lopez W 12 Mongkol Chareon

Las Vegas, Nevada: WBC strawweight champion Lopez, long an advocate of short work whenever possible, had to go the distance in his 19th defense, turning back rock-ribbed Chareon by unanimous decision on the Moorer-Bean undercard at the Las Vegas Hilton Center.

Though the 29-year-old Lopez, 105, Mexico City, Mexico, totally dominated, boxing's longest-reigning champion never came close to stopping the southpaw Chareon, 105, Khonkaen Province, Thailand. Ended was Lopez' streak of eight consecutive kayo defenses.

Only an incredible display of courage enabled Chareon, 18, to finish on his feet. He was especially vulnerable in the second half of the fight, when he was rarely able to slip Lopez' jab and work inside. Clearly trying for a kayo, Lopez, 45-0 (34), rocked Chareon, 20-2 (6), with mean combinations in the 10th, hurt him in the 11th, which he punctuated with a six-punch combination to the head, and landed Big Bertha bombs in the 12th. At one point in the final stanza, the champion moved Chareon from one side of the ring to the other with an avalanche of 17 unanswered blows.

Carol Castellano (USA) and Marty Sammon (USA) scored 120-107 and Horacio Castilla (Colombia) 119-108. The referee was Jay Nady (USA).

While Chareon connected with a few lefts in the later rounds, he did most of his damage with his head. He was warned for butting in the third, and when he repeated the infraction in the ninth, opening a cut above Lopez' right eye, Nady deducted a point.

"The left hand did concern me a little, but I never stopped punching," said Lopez. "He kept trying to come in with his head first, and he never hurt me, but I had to be careful."

Said Chareon, "I am very proud to have gone the distance with a fighter of Lopez' high quality. I accept Lopez as a great fighter."

Photo by Chris Farina

Lopez made sure not to bleed on the belt

Lopez earned $50,000 and Chareon $20,000.

Lopez' next defense was scheduled to come against Puerto Rican powerpuncher Nene Sanchez underneath Terry Norris-Felix Trinidad at Madison Square Garden on June 27, but the show was postponed to a later date.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

(3-29-97)

Jack Welsh

Laurent Boudouani W 12 Carl Daniels

Las Vegas, Nevada: Relying on ripping right uppercuts to compensate for an ailing left elbow, Boudouani retained the WBA junior middleweight title for the first time, scoring a unanimous decision over former champion Daniels on the Moorer-Bean undercard at the Las Vegas Hilton Center.

The 30-year-old Boudouani, 154, Sallanchez, France, reportedly hurt his left elbow in training. As a result, he needed most of the early rounds to get untracked before dominating against the southpaw Daniels, 154, St. Louis, Missouri.

"In the beginning, I just couldn't get off with my left jab," Boudouani said through an interpreter. "Though I felt in control, I found the fight difficult early. As it progressed, I was relaxed and fluid in my punching."

The handsome Boudouani is the first world champion from France to successfully defend in the USA since Algerian-born Alphonse Halimi, who kept the bantamweight crown by beating Raton Macias in 1957.

Boudouani's superior hand speed, granite chin, and snapping uppercuts combined to make it a long night for Daniels, 26, who was always in front of the champion, but rarely managed to connect with more than one punch at a time. Whenever the willing Daniels tried to initiate warfare inside, Boudouani either backed him up or straightened him up with quick salvos. His money shot was the right uppercut.

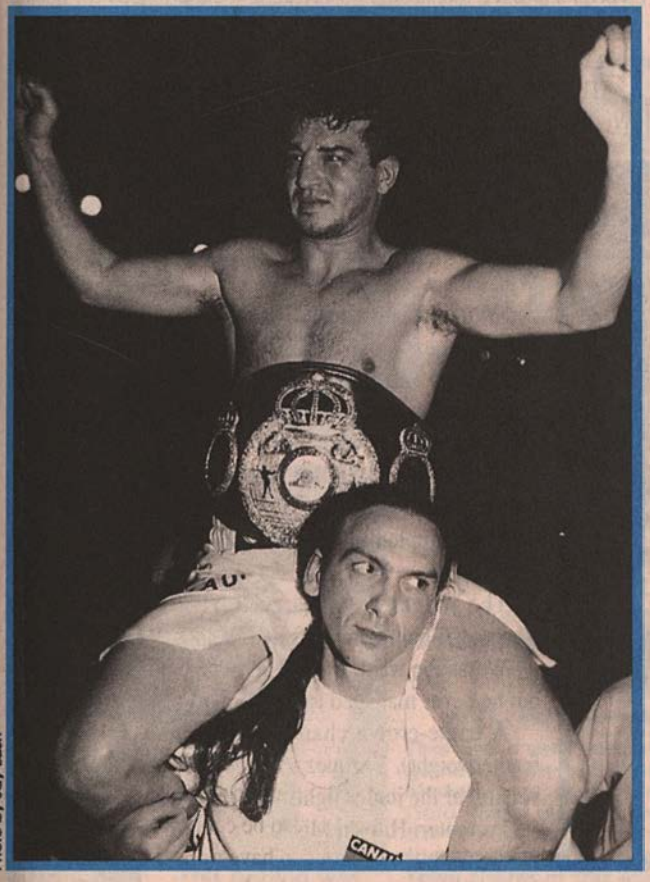


Photo by Jay Lash

Boudouani's win was a career-best

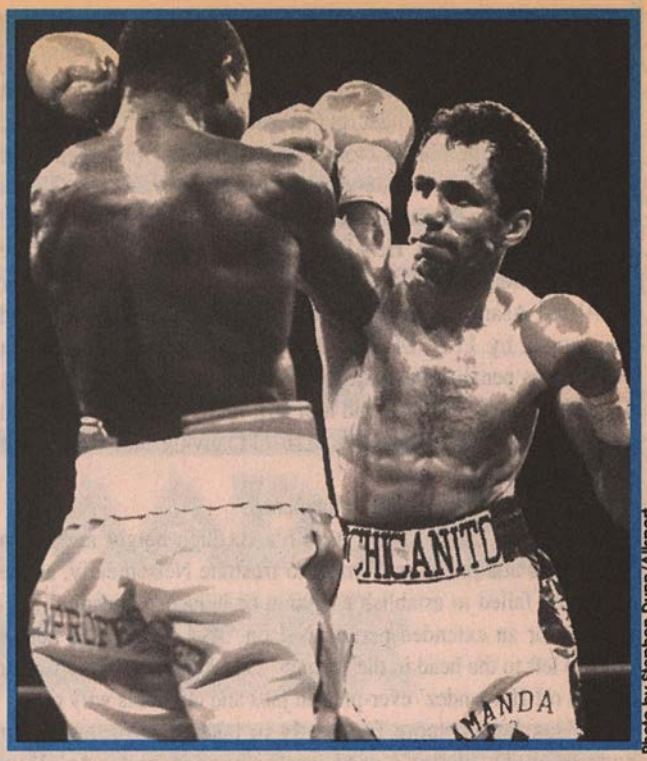


Photo by Stephen Dunn/Allsport

Hernandez baffled Nelson with combinations

Daniels, 38-3 (25), had a shaky seventh round, and the eighth, during which Boudouani, 35-2 (31), scored the bout's only knockdown with a left-right to the head, was no better. (Daniels claimed the knockdown was a slip.) In the 10th, the champion took Daniels to the ropes with a nine-punch volley. The 11th saw a similar flurry. In the 12th, Boudouani's big punches prompted Daniels to spit out his mouthpiece. The challenger had been previously warned for the infraction, and Steele deducted a point.

Marcial Vargas (Venezuela) scored 118-108, Duane Ford (USA) 117-109, and Melchior Taylor (Trinidad) 115-111. THE RING had Boudouani in front by 117-111. The referee was Richard Steele (USA).

(3-29-97)

Jack Welsh

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Azumah Nelson

Corpus Christi, Texas: Defending WBC super featherweight champion Nelson was supposed to be "The Professor," but it was Hernandez who did most of the teaching, frustrating his rival with his elusiveness and displaying a sense of sportsmanship rarely seen in the squared circle nowadays.

Hernandez could have won the title the easy way—by disqualification—after Nelson landed a left to the neck following the bell ending round seven. Though hurting and woozy, Hernandez, 30, shook off the blow and, after a brief rest, returned to battle against the Hall-of-Fame-bound champion, avoiding the aggressor and

holding his own over the last five rounds to seal a split decision victory at the Memorial Coliseum.

Hernandez, 129¾, Los Angeles, California, a former longtime WBA 130-pound titleholder, put to rest the criticism he absorbed after retiring with a badly broken nose during his 1995 fight with Oscar De La Hoya. The 38-year-old Nelson, 129, Accra, Ghana, who was making the second defense of his second reign, indicated he'd probably fight on. He's likely to move up and try for a share of the lightweight title.

Alfred Asaro (France) and Richie Davies (England) favored Hernandez by 116-114 and 118-110, respectively. Although Nelson was penalized a point for his late punches in round seven, Gale Van Hoy (USA) still had him in front by 115-114. THE RING saw Hernandez a clear winner, 116-111, giving him four of the last five rounds.

Those rounds almost never happened.

Hernandez, 35-1-1 (17), used his six-inch height and reach advantages and lateral movement to frustrate Nelson early, as the champion failed to establish a rhythm or induce "Chicanito" into trading for an extended period. Nelson, 39-4-2 (28), did land a wicked left to the head in the second round, but was mostly forced to fend off Hernandez' ever-present jabs and chase his wily rival.

Nelson landed more frequently to take the fifth and sixth rounds on THE RING'S card, as Hernandez began to slow. However, the challenger rebounded in the seventh, landing multiple combinations. When the bell sounded, Hernandez' back was to the ropes. Nelson hesitated a microsecond, then continued punching, firing a right to the head and a left just under the chin. Hernandez looked at Nelson with disbelief, then crumpled to the canvas.

Given the handful of unsporting finishes of late (Griffin-Jones one night before, as well as Bowe-Golota I and II, Coggi-Randall II, and Santana-Norris I and II), few expected another punch to be thrown. The ring doctors looked after Hernandez, while referee Laurence Cole (USA) announced that the challenger had up to five minutes to continue. If he could not, Nelson would be disqualified and Hernandez crowned champion. But Hernandez refused to take the easy way to victory.

"I wanted to prove to everybody I'm not a coward," Hernandez said after moving and clinching over the last five rounds. "I fought the greatest world champion tonight. I wanted to beat him the right way. I was wobbly after he knocked me down, but I managed to use my boxing skills to overcome it."

In the weeks leading up to the fight, Nelson hinted he might be one bout away from retirement, though his contract with Top Rank had provisions for three more fights. But after losing the title, there was no farewell. "I thank my God I lost the fight today and nobody was hurt," he said. "I will learn from this lesson. This is a game; anyone can win. I lost to the best in the division. Now I'm going to go home and think about what I will do next."

Hernandez will next defend against mandatory challenger Anatoly Alexandrov. He's well-aware of Nelson's record in rematches, and kiddingly asked The Professor to retire so he wouldn't have to fight him again. If a second bout doesn't materialize, defenses against Gabe Ruelas and IBF champion Arturo Gatti lie ahead.

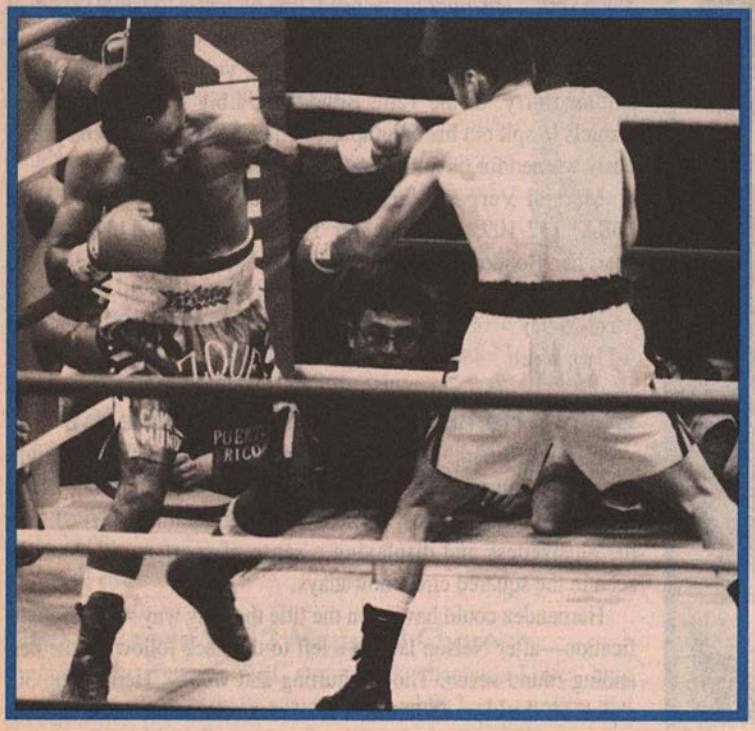
(3-22-97)

Bruce Williams

Wilfredo Vazquez KO 5 Yuji Watanabe

Tokyo, Japan: Veteran WBA featherweight champion Vazquez proved too strong, powerful, and experienced for mandatory challenger Watanabe, scoring an impressive kayo 31 seconds into the fifth round at Ryookyu Sumo Arena.

The 36-year-old Vazquez, 126, Puerto Rico, broke the jaw of Watanabe, 125½, Japan, in two places. He first struck in the second, catching the taller challenger with vicious right crosses. Watanabe, 26, collapsed to the floor twice, with referee John Coyle (England) paying close attention to the groggy Japanese. With Vazquez swarming, Watanabe was saved by the bell.



Vazquez overpowered Watanabe from the start

Watanabe subsequently tried to outjab the champion, but Vazquez avoided the long punches and countered with power and precision. In the fourth, Watanabe was again rubbery-legged after absorbing overhand rights and left hooks. In the fifth, Watanabe, 19-3 (17), fell to all-fours as Vazquez, 48-7-3 (37), landed a right to the jaw and a left uppercut. The challenger pulled himself up, but crumpled as Coyle was concluding his mandatory count.

The judges were Larry Rozadilla (USA), Justo Vasquez (Spain), and Gustavo Padilla (Panama).

Watanabe was expected to have a puncher's chance, but he never managed to overcome Vazquez' power.

A triple-crown champion (bantamweight through featherweight), Vazquez indicated he'll attempt to add a version of the junior lightweight title in the near future.

Promoter: Hitoshi Misako Promotions

(3-30-97)

Joe Koizumi ■

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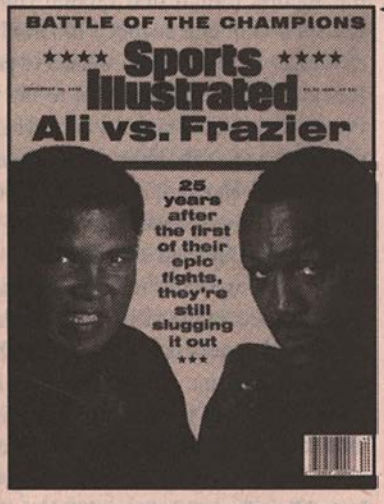

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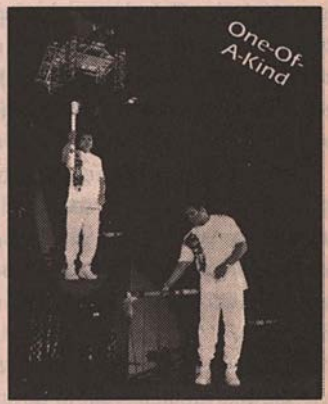

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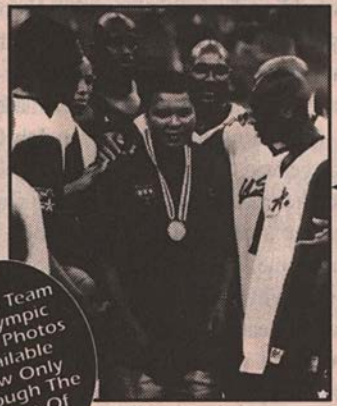

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Griffin-Jones

(Continued from page 37)

Olympic team, twice outpointing James Toney, and compiling a perfect record as a professional. For him, height is nothing but a state of mind.

"I've been doing this [winning] for the last five years," he said after dethroning Jones by disqualification. "It's just that nobody's been paying attention."

***

Making his first defense, Jones was a 12-1 favorite over Griffin. In Ali's first fight vs. Norton, he had been a 5-1 favorite. As Futch taped Norton's hands that afternoon in San Diego, this is what he reminded his fighter: "Don't look to counter him. Jab *with* him, which will make him step back. Soon he'll find himself on the ropes. When he's there, don't fire that big left hook to the head, because he'll use the ropes to lean away from it. Go to the body with both hands. Make him get those elbows down, which will create openings for the head."

Twenty-four years later, the message wasn't all that different for Griffin: "Jones likes to box. He likes the room. With his speed of hand and foot, he wants the whole ring. He's not accustomed to fighting on the ropes. And when he's there and an opponent starts to attack, he makes the same mistake Jorge Luis Gonzalez made against Riddick Bowe: He stands up straight. Punch to his body.

"Also, it'll be confusing to him that a fighter a number of inches shorter will catch him with the jab. Use the jab from a semi-crouch and Jones will have to jab down, leaving himself open for a right-hand counter over the top."

In camp, Futch, 85, climbed into the ring and "showed Montell what to do." By the time he was taping Griffin's hands, nothing else needed to be said. Griffin knew something, all right. He knew that if he faced Jones 50 times, he'd make every fight a headache.

Griffin surely benefited from the wisdom of Futch and co-trainer Thell Torrence, but in fact, he was already spilling over with confidence. "I thought he was a good fighter with great skills," he said of Jones, "but I questioned his opposition after the Toney fight. [In November 1994, Jones outpointed Toney to win the IBF super middleweight title.] He hadn't fought anybody I had to respect. And the James Toney I fought was a much better fighter than the Toney Jones fought. Toney didn't look like himself when he fought Jones.

"Then the Mike McCallum fight exposed Jones a lot. It showed he didn't like to fight going forward, that he can't fight going forward. He's more comfortable going backward. His problems are with people who box. He's kind of afraid to commit. As soon as he throws his jab, he goes backward.

"I had always believed it, but I had never seen it. I saw that fight and it gave me more confidence."

Executing a fight plan that called for him to frustrate Jones more than punish him, Griffin, 175, Chicago, Illinois, was rewarded with instant success; less than 10 seconds into the bout, Jones, 175, Pensacola, Florida, was backed to the ropes. The champion won the round on two of the three cards by stunning Griffin with a counter hook, but the CompuBox numbers were telling: Over the first two rounds, Jones landed only two of 45 jabs, and over the first five stanzas, he was nine of 109, with most of his lefts falling short.

Griffin, 27-0 (18), took the second, third, and fourth rounds, with Jones repeatedly backing to the ropes, where he sponged some bodyshots and blocked others. A brief sequence in the third was particularly revealing: After Jones, 34-1 (29), banged away at Griffin's sides, the challenger answered with a right-on hook. Jones tried to respond, but by the time he fired, boxing's poster boy for the vertically challenged was already gone. In fact, it was Jones who was coming up short.

Griffin may have been marvelously prepared and grossly underrated, but he was still fighting boxing's best, so it was no surprise when Jones began a rally in the fifth. Capitalizing on Griffin's reluctance to punch, the champion struck with sizzling speed. First came a right to the body, then a straight right, then a right-hook combo. At the bell, Jones raised his arms to the crowd. Maybe this was a chess match, but at least the players were beginning to exchange pieces.

Boxing loosey-goosey, Jones scored with several lead rights to sweep the sixth. Better yet, referee Tony Perez (USA) ruled a knockdown in the seventh when Jones landed a hook, and Griffin, his left knee locked between Jones' legs, tripped to the canvas. Griffith rebounded in the eighth, at one point shoulder-butting Jones before catching him with a sucker hook. Entering the fateful ninth, Jones led on two cards and Griffin on one, with Chuck Hassett and Terry Smith scoring for the champion by 77-75 and 76-75, respectively, and Barbara Perez favoring the challenger by 76-75. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had Jones ahead by 76-75.

For the first time in 35 pro bouts, Jones was in the midst of a serious challenge. He responded strongly, stunning Griffin with a right early in the ninth, then, with a minute to go, connecting with a right to the temple. Fifteen seconds later, Griffin, dizzy and under siege, dropped to one knee, his left glove touching the canvas.

"I had gotten a little winded," Griffin explained. "It was my inexperience. I wasn't moving my head like I should've been. I leaned over too far and he caught me on top of the head. He was coming at me real wild and I didn't want to get really hurt. I felt if I took a knee, I'd have the 10th, 11th, and 12th to regain control."

As Griffin looked to referee Perez, Jones swung with his right, and then his left. It was the second punch that landed flush on Griffin's chin and snapped his head. The challenger looked as if he wanted to protest. Instead, he crashed head-first to the floor. Perez counted him out at the 2:27 mark, then conferred with New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard, and the decision was quickly made to disqualify Jones. "He made the decision," Hazzard said of Perez.

"I would expect the referee to be closer to me in the heat of the moment," Jones said at the postfight press conference. "All he had to do was touch me on the shoulder and I would've stopped [punching]." Then, a short time later, the candid suddenly former champion added, "The way stuff was going, yeah, I would've disqualified myself." No one disagreed with him; it was a helluva thing to have happen to boxing's pound-for-pound leader, but the right call had been made.

Some ringsiders, however, felt Griffin exaggerated the effect of the illegal blows in order to ensure a DQ victory. Such sentiment brought a rise in the fighter's voice. "That upsets me, hurts me, embarrasses me," he said. "Why would I … I felt I was on my way to beating this man fair and square. I thought I was winning the fight easy. I wasn't happy about nothing. I wanted to win fair and square."

Which, of course, brings us to a rematch. Let the bad blood begin.

"I lost a lot of respect for him," Griffin said of Jones. "He apologized, he said he would've DQ'd himself, then two days later he files a protest? The guy claims he's the best, pound-for-pound, in the world. He was getting beat up in the face. He was two punches away from bleeding, and he should've been losing on points. He was frustrated and looking for a chance to get me outta there. He wanted the fight to be over with."

Said Jones, "Why should I feel sad? I didn't lose; the ref disqualified me." One question, Mr. Jones: If you didn't lose, why is the other guy wearing the belt?

***

As we went to press, negotiations had begun for Griffin-Jones II. Realizing Jones needs a return at least as badly as Griffin, John Caluwaert, the newly crowned champion's manager, said he'd demand a purse at least as big as Jones had secured for the first fight. Translation: $3-million. Controversy sells. Apparently, it also costs.

A rematch will be a must-see fight for several reasons. Firstly, while Jones seemed en route to victory before fouling out (a 10-8 round in the ninth would have given him the lead on all three cards), Griffin exposed some weaknesses. Jones is not perfect, and Griffin is the type of fighter who feeds on the imperfections of others. (A few years back, they called such fighters "cuties.") Moreover, Griffin stands a chance of improving. "It's all about experience," he said. "Now I know what to look for. I haven't reached my potential yet. I've had just 27 fights. I'm still learning."

So is Jones, who's learned that showtime doesn't necessarily guarantee a spectacular finish. Asked whether Griffin was the best fighter he's faced, Jones said, "He's the most difficult to understand." You know what, Roy? Familiarity isn't going to make him any easier. ■

De La Hoya-Whitaker

(Continued from page 42)

instructions, De La Hoya looked skyward, seeking last-minute inspiration from his deceased mother. The puckish Whitaker shimmied and grinned, as loose as his opponent was dour. As it turned out, there was nothing to learn from their respective demeanors. Both would box carefully, and at times brilliantly. But neither would impose his will.

Almost nothing was established over the first two rounds, during which Whitaker, 146½, Norfolk, Virginia, flashed some sharp jabs and De La Hoya, 146½, Whittier, California, featured his right, which had been forgotten, or perhaps hidden, during his hard-earned points win over Miguel Angel Gonzalez in January.

In the third, Whitaker's right eye began to puff, but he also began to make De La Hoya miss punches in bunches, sometimes by moving his head, other times by turning sideways and backpedaling. Toward the end of the round, an unintentional butt opened an almost imperceptible cut on De La Hoya's right cheekbone. According to the WBC's nonsensical rule, Whitaker was penalized a point. When De La Hoya finished the round by connecting solidly with a left uppercut and hook, he earned a 10-8 round on two of the three cards.

The round turned out to be a microcosm of the fight. While Whitaker threw more punches, and connected more often and at a higher rate, the more telling blows belonged to De La Hoya. According to CompuBox, Whitaker's edge in jabs landed was 160 to 45, but De La Hoya's advantage in power-punches landed was 146 to 72.

The fourth, which saw De La Hoya turn southpaw for the first time ("I was trying to confuse Whitaker," he explained), was also captured by The Golden Boy, who snuck in a couple of lead rights. Just before the bell, he missed all eight punches of a flurry, and Whitaker returned to his corner wiggling his hips. What the defending champion ultimately failed to recognize was that embarrassing De La Hoya, and even outboxing him, was not necessarily akin to outfighting him.

"I picked Pernell, but Oscar won the fight by out-thinking him," said trainer Emanuel Steward, a neutral observer. "De La Hoya was hustling and trying to win more, where Whitaker was trying to make him miss and look bad."

Whitaker retreated throughout the fifth—and swept his first round. Immediately adjusting, De La Hoya bounced on his toes in the sixth, drawing the smaller fighter in. Twice he effectively countered Whitaker's counters, first with a hook and then with a right. "[Whitaker] has a lot of problems with movement," Jesus Rivero, De La Hoya's trainer, had said before the fight. "He doesn't know how to walk forward."

De La Hoya won the seventh and eighth, both quiet rounds, on all three cards. The ninth began with the welterweights struggling inside, where Whitaker was consistently more aggressive, and occasionally downright dirty. (Late in the round, he laced De La Hoya across the eyes.) With 50 seconds remaining, their legs tangled, and as Whitaker brushed De La Hoya with a left, The Golden Boy went down. Lane ruled a knockdown, and all three judges scored the round 10-8 for Whitaker.

"That knockdown—let's be real," said De La Hoya. Indeed, it could have been called a slip. The two-point margin seemed like it would be critical, but as it turned out, entering the 10th, De La Hoya, 24-0 (20), still led by three points on each of the cards.

The 10th featured a schoolyard exchange just before the bell, but even on the rare occasions that the fighters fired recklessly, there were more misses than hits. Until that point, Whitaker, 40-2-1 (17), had done nothing. He gained an edge in the 11th (only Giampa gave him the round), then danced away the 12th despite his corner having warned him that a full effort was needed.

***

At the bell, the fighters smiled before embracing. But when the scores were announced, Whitaker's grin turned into a look of incredulity. Giampa scored 115-111, and Roth and Shirley 116-110. THE RING, which had Whitaker ahead by 114-113, had no problem with the outcome. As for the margin of victory ...

"Having Whitaker win three rounds is ridiculous," Dino Duva, Whitaker's promoter, said of Roth and Shirley.

"I don't know why the judges waited so long to hand in their cards," said Lou Duva, Whitaker's co-manager and cornerman. "They could've handed in their cards in the second round."

"I was glad the judges were in unison," countered Marc Ratner, the executive

(Continued on page 56)

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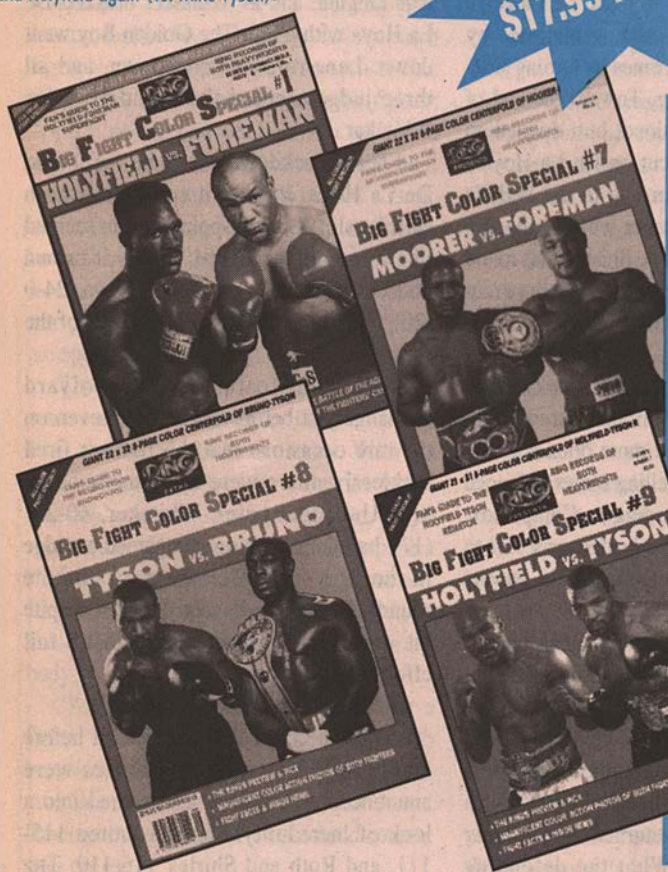

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De La Hoya-Whitaker

(Continued from page 55)

director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "Had one judge scored for De La Hoya by five points and another for Whitaker by five points, I would've had a problem. Whoever wins the fight in the ring should get the decision, regardless of the totals. My impression was that if there were 100 hard punches landed in the fight, De La Hoya landed 80 of them. But that's Marc Ratner talking."

Why had the judges been so generous to De La Hoya? Theories were plentiful: 1) They knew The Golden Boy represents the future, and economically and otherwise, a De La Hoya victory was best for boxing; 2) they were affected by the wildly pro-De La Hoya crowd, which overreacted to almost all of his punches; 3) they resented Whitaker's clowning. "This is a very conservative place," said Steward. "They don't like that showboating."

It was De La Hoya who put the scoring controversy in perspective. Told at the postfight press conference that ABC, ESPN, and the majority of the writers had scored for Whitaker, he said, "I have the belt right here, so I think I'm the champion."

No argument there. But what responsibility does the champion have? De La Hoya doesn't *have* to fight Whitaker again, just as Whitaker didn't have to fight De La Hoya. Since first crowned a champion, however, The Golden Boy has expressed an interest in big fights, and big fights only. Lots of people aren't convinced De La Hoya beat Whitaker, which, despite what Arum may think, makes a rematch as big a fight as there can be.

A few days after the fight, Whitaker took out a full-page ad in *The Los Angeles Times* and the Spanish-language daily *La Opinion*, guaranteeing De La Hoya $12-million for a return bout. The copy: "Hey, Oscar, Now you have 12 million reasons to fight us again. I just have one, I was robbed Saturday night. A true champion would not be able to accept such a tainted victory. You claim you call the shots. Stop hiding behind your promoter. It's time for 'The Golden Boy' to start acting like a

man. Sincerely, Pernell Whitaker."

De La Hoya-Kamau? De La Hoya-Camacho? De La Hoya-Charpentier? To borrow the new champion's phrase, let's get real.

"You can never look good against Pernell Whitaker no matter how hard you try," said De La Hoya. But you can beat him convincingly. That's probably what The Golden Boy will do in a rematch. If he'll give himself the chance. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

Olympic Trials at 119 pounds. After failing to make the 1992 Olympic team, losing a disputed decision to eventual Olympian Sergio Reyes, he decided to turn pro. His overall amateur mark: 158-18 (49).

"His amateur career was so good," said Jorrin's promoter, West Coast veteran Don Chargin. "He fought Michael Carbajal when he was just 16. He lost to Wayne McCullough in Portland [Oregon], but beat him in Ireland."

In February 1993, on the undercard of then-lightweight champion Lopez' defense against Dingaan Thobela, Jorrin made his pro debut against Esau Dieguez. Seconds after the opening bell, Jorrin hurt his opponent with a hook to the body. Moments later, a right and a superb left hook to the chin floored Dieguez for the full count.

After Jorrin advanced to 9-0, Chargin felt the fighter was ready to move up in class and into 10-round bouts. On the Lennox Lewis-Lionel Butler undercard in May 1995, he battled tough Max Maldonado, who had gone the distance with Richard Duran and Eddie Croft. In front of more than 8,000 fans, Jorrin pounded Maldonado to the body and floored him for the first time in his career in the eighth. When Maldonado rose, Jorrin unloaded with both hands until referee Dave Nelson called a halt.

After scoring kayos in two of his next three bouts, Jorrin settled for a 10-round split decision over Jose Lopez in July '96. "Willie's a hard puncher," said his trainer, Don Conley, who trained Garza to the WBA junior welterweight title, "but he found out you can't knock out everybody. We worked on getting him to use his jab more."

Any doubts anyone may have had about Jorrin's abilities were erased by his victory over Manjarrez, who described the winner as "very fast, strong, a good puncher." Jorrin followed that win with his most significant bout to date. At the Memorial Auditorium in February, he took on George Parra, who climbed through the ropes with a record of 29-1. Jorrin opened quickly, stunning Parra late in the first with two rights to the head. An accidental butt in the second left Jorrin with a cut on the left side of his head, but the local favorite disregarded the bleeding, pounding Parra to the body, slipping under his rights, and countering with hooks to the jaw. In the fourth, Jorrin staggered Parra, and a followup barrage broke his nose and bloodied his face. Parra survived the fifth and sixth, but when a right drove him to the ropes in the seventh, referee Terry Smith called a halt. "I was at my best tonight," said Jorrin afterward. "Parra was the best-conditioned fighter I've ever faced."

Chargin told reporters, "Willie's ready to make a move on the rankings. He's got great quickness, an assortment of punches, and a great chin. At 122 pounds, he'll be a world champion."

Added Sid Tenner, a veteran Sacramento fight figure who assists Chargin, "Willie's the reason I'm still in boxing. If it wasn't for him, I'd be retired by now."

Chargin and Jorrin's co-managers, John Cazares and Alfonso Jorrin (the fighter's father), plan to have Jorrin reduce back down to junior featherweight. An April date with Mexico's Enrique Jupiter was postponed when Jorrin was found to have suffered a hairline fracture of his left hand. While mending (he spent three weeks in a cast), he helped manage El Azteca, the restaurant his family owns. Jorrin still lives in West Sacramento. He and his wife Victoria have two children.

Jorrin's easy-going manner belies the determination he has displayed within the ropes. "I'll fight anyone, anytime, anyplace;

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

it doesn't matter," he said. "My goal is to win a world title and bring it back to Sacramento. I have to be a lot more focused now because this is the year." ■

Steve Nicolaisen is a freelance writer based in Antelope, California.

Shane Mosley

(Continued from page 25)

The now-retired Padilla, a non-stop punching machine, estimates he worked 1,000 rounds with Sugar Shane.

"Shane's speed is his power," said Hernandez. "All his punches, no matter what angle they come from, have that snap to them. His jab is even faster than De La Hoya's."

So with everyone speaking of Mosley as if he's a combination of Benny Leonard, Roberto Duran, and Pernell Whitaker, when are we going to see him against the elite? Forget a bout against a name contender; more likely than not, he'll jump directly into a world title fight.

"This is the most excited I've been about a single fighter in a long time," said Kushner. "I'm looking for a June or July HBO *Boxing After Dark* challenge against [IBF champion] Phillip Holiday." (As we went to press, it seemed likely Holiday-Mosley would materialize on July 26.)

"It makes sense to move Mosley right into a title fight," said Bernstein. "He's ready to take off, and he could explode like a De La Hoya or a Sugar Ray Leonard."

All he needs is the chance, which, for a fighter who's been special since his early teen years, is a long time coming.

***

Watching Steve Johnston's postfight interview after the southpaw's title-winning victory over Mendy, Mosley asks his father's opinion of the fight.

"Steve did a good job," says Jack Mosley, "but he should've been more on the attack."

Shane nods in agreement. "They were boxing for a world title. I'm going to be *fighting* for it."

A young fighter can be expected to wait only so long. Before Johnson's interview is over, Mosley leaps from the couch and screams at the TV set: "Let's get it on!" ■

Douglass Fischer is a freelance writer based in Culver City, California.

Tony Zale

(Continued from page 31)

"Zale fell just short of being great, but he was a better fighter before those three bouts with Graziano, even a better fighter *without* those three bouts," said Kaplan. "It just so happened that those were the knock-down, drag-out affairs."

It would have seemed unimaginable at the time, but The Man of Steel had won for the final time. Only three months later, and with the Graziano trilogy firmly ensconced in history, Zale lost the title by 12th-round TKO to Marcel Cerdan. That was his last bout; he retired at age 35 with an overall mark of 67-18-2 (45).

Wrote Frank Graham of the *New York Journal-American*, " … all of a sudden, the savage had grown worn and tired, and he was just an old prizefighter who had nothing left."

In his post-boxing years, Zale, a Hall of Famer, taught boxing at the Catholic Youth Organization in Chicago. He and Graziano were frequently reunited, and on occasion they donned oversized gloves and playfully gave life to a rivalry that couldn't possibly die.

Boxing hasn't changed since Zale threw himself into war after war, but boxers have. Perhaps it's fitting, then, that the final word is delivered by a scribe from Zale's time. In 1949, Graham wrote, "Tony Zale is as nice and quiet and decent as anyone you've ever known. But in the ring he was a throwback to the barge fighters and the bruisers that fought in the gin mills and on the covered bridges in the old hole-and-corner days. There was never anything fancy about him, and a boxer could make him look bad, as Billy Soose once did, and in lesser measures, Billy Conn. But throw him in with another bruiser, like Graziano, for instance, and he gave you a fight the likes of which you seldom see nowadays.

"He knew only one way to fight: to hit and be hit. His punches rocked your head and raked your body, and the harder you hit him back, the harder he fought. Once he

(Continued on page 60)

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Tony Zale

(Continued from page 58)

entered the ring, nothing mattered to him but the destruction of the man coming out of the opposite corner, not even life itself. He couldn't always bring it off. Boxers could avoid him and spear him with their own punches, cuties could tie him up and haul him around and worry a decision out of him, as his record shows.

"But in standup fights, he was something to see, and having seen him, you would never forget him." ■

Holyfield-Tyson

(Continued from page 34)

5. Conditioning: No one has ever questioned Holyfield in this regard. Tyson is another story. With many of the opponents he's faced, conditioning hasn't been a factor. But when he lost to Buster Douglas, his lack of conditioning was a key.

Tyson underestimated Holyfield much the same way he had underestimated Douglas. A revealing statistic: Of Tyson's 39 knockouts, only five have come after the fifth round.

Steward: "It seems like Mike becomes mentally and physically exhausted. He'll be in good condition for this fight. Both guys will be in good shape. But Evander seems to function better in the late rounds. He's more experienced at fighting when exhaustion has set in."

Reid: "I think Tyson is a proud individual, and he'll work hard to be in the best shape he can for the rematch. Holyfield is a tremendous athlete and he's always in shape. This fight is too important for both of them. They'll be in shape."

6. Richie Giachetti: On the two occasions Tyson really needed help from his corner—against Douglas and Holyfield—it failed him. As the Holyfield fight wore on, it became obvious Tyson didn't have a Plan B. Giachetti was summoned to train Tyson after the Douglas fight, and now he's back. If nothing else, Giachetti had Tyson's respect the first time around. But has his return come too late?

Reid: "The respect between fighter and corner is a big plus for Holyfield. Tyson needs people he can respect. He got no help from his corner last time. Tyson needs honesty, someone he can really trust. He needs to know that when he goes back to the corner, the one minute between rounds will be of value. Giachetti is a motivator. Maybe Tyson needs that. Can he change Tyson? I don't know."

Steward: "The problem is that Mike's the boss. I don't think Richie can change that. I don't think the guys he had were that bad. But Mike called all the shots. That's really the problem."

7. Infighting: Given his compact physique and punching power, fighting on the inside would seemingly be an advantage for Tyson. Last November, there was virtually no infighting, with both men clinching before anything meaningful could happen. That was part of Holyfield's strategy. By quickly tying Tyson up, he prevented him from getting into any kind of rhythm.

Reid: "I think Tyson has to go back and study films of how he used to put his punches together. He used to gamble more on the inside. The more he throws, the better his chances are of scoring a knockout."

Steward: "It would benefit Tyson if he could get inside and fight more. Again, the key is the jab. He can jab his way in. And once he gets in, he should rip punches to the body. But I would be wary of Evander on the inside. He can fight well on the inside. He's very adept at slugging. He does it well."

8. Can Holyfield again rise to the occasion?: Before he upset Tyson, Holyfield was thought to be a shot fighter. But it turned out that all he needed was a challenge. He fought the fight of his life, executing every element of his strategy to near-perfection. He withstood Tyson's bombs, employed a steady and well-planned attack, and never allowed his concentration to waver. Can he repeat such an intense, focused effort?

Reid: "This fight might be tougher if Holyfield relaxes. But I don't think he will. I like the way Holyfield carried himself after the first fight. When he was asked about the rematch, he said he'd need time to prepare. He's always prepared himself well. I think he'll carry the same mindset into the second fight."

Steward: "Evander will be prepared. He knows he's going to have a rough fight with Mike again. But he loves a challenge. That first fight was the mental challenge he needed. Tyson is the one guy Evander has fought in his mind a million times. He butted Mike, he had Mike complaining. He just roughed him up. I think that's the same attitude he'll carry into this fight. Evander has a mental thing with bullies. He did it with one of my fighters, Ricky Womack, in the Olympic Trials. Womack was the toughest, strongest, meanest guy, and Holyfield beat him. He considers Tyson a bully. Evander gets up for that. He goes to another level."

9. The psychological effect of the first fight: At the postfight press conference in November, Tyson answered most of the questions by stating, "I don't remember." If he still doesn't remember, he might be better off. It isn't often that a kayo victim is able to overcome his conqueror in a rematch. Tyson is a student of boxing, and heavyweight history suggests that for the winner, it's usually easier the second time around.

Reid: "Tyson is in that false world. He's lost anybody around him who would be honest with him. I think he'll be nervous."

Steward: "Evander thoroughly beat Mike. This wasn't a fluke. It wasn't as if Mike was winning the fight before getting caught with a big punch. Mike has to have some doubts. He has to have some fear and respect for this man. They underestimated Holyfield the first time. There has to be a little uneasiness in the back of his mind with Evander. He needs this victory to give him respectability in the historical sense. Right now, he'll be remembered for falling apart when someone fought him back."

10. Is the rematch coming too soon for Tyson?: Immediately after losing to Holyfield, Tyson said he wanted a rematch. When the return bout was postponed, Tyson was given more time to prepare mentally and physically. But is the rematch still coming too soon? Would he be better served by engaging in at least one tuneup?

Reid: "I would have gotten Tyson three or four fights. I would have had him fight every month. He's a natural-born fighter. He picks up skills when he fights. He sharpens himself. That's what he does best. He fights."

Steward: "I think Mike needs a confidence-builder. He needs to sharpen the skills he once had. He needs to resume his old style and practice it. I wouldn't go right back and

fight the most dangerous guy he's ever faced. I'd have given Mike some kind of tuneup." ■

Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in Wantagh, New York.

Freddie Cochrane

(Continued from page 45)

Fight of the Year in 1946. "He wanted to kill me, that bleepin' guinea," says Cochrane.

There's a big photo of a young Cochrane in a boxing pose, with a large eagle tattooed on his chest. "I got hit so hard, it flew away once," he says, breaking into the loud, easy laugh that offsets a vocabulary that routinely employs what is primly called "the F-word" as a subject, predicate, and adjective. Cochrane doesn't apologize for that. "If you don't take me as I am, you don't take me," he says.

In a small frame is a photocopy of a headline from the July 30, 1941, New York *Daily News*: "Cochrane Beats Zivic." It's his only memento of what THE RING called "a bombshell in boxing," when Cochrane, a 12-1 underdog, won the decision and title from Fritzie Zivic in a fight Nat Fleischer heralded as an even bigger upset than Jimmy Braddock's win over Max Baer for the heavyweight title six years earlier.

It shocked the hell out of Cochrane, too, when he saw Joe Mangold, referee and sole judge, head toward him in the ring at Newark's Ruppert Stadium to raise his hand at the end of the 15 hard rounds. "I didn't know what the hell he was doing," recalls Cochrane. Then, when Mangold's purpose became clear, "I let out a holler you could hear back in Brooklyn."

Cochrane was the second world champion to come not only out of Elizabeth, New Jersey, but also out of the same block. The legendary Mickey Walker, who held the welterweight and middleweight titles, lived in a house just eight doors away from Cochrane's.

"I was raised by my grandmother," says Red. "I came and went as I pleased. I was a regular knock-around kid." They kicked him out of Catholic school in the seventh grade for skipping out on the Stations of the Cross. Public school didn't have anything for him either, so in the eighth grade, "I just quit," he says.

Cochrane had a better place to go by then anyway. One day, when he was about 12, he was passing by a garage when somebody leaned out an upstairs window and offered him 15 cents a day to carry ashes down and coal back up. That was Freddie's first introduction to a boxing gym, and before long he was winning watches in amateur bouts and trading them in for $3 back in the dressing room.

He turned pro in 1933. His manager was the wily Willie Gilzenberg, who also had heavyweight challenger "Two-Ton" Tony Galento. When he spotted Cochrane in the gym, Gilzenberg announced, "I'm gonna make a champion out of him." But that lofty aspiration was not shared by the fighter. "I didn't give a bleep," says Cochrane, who was more interested in turning over a quick buck. "I'd just tell Willie, 'When am I fightin' again? I'm broke!'"

It's been historically assumed that

(Continued on page 62)

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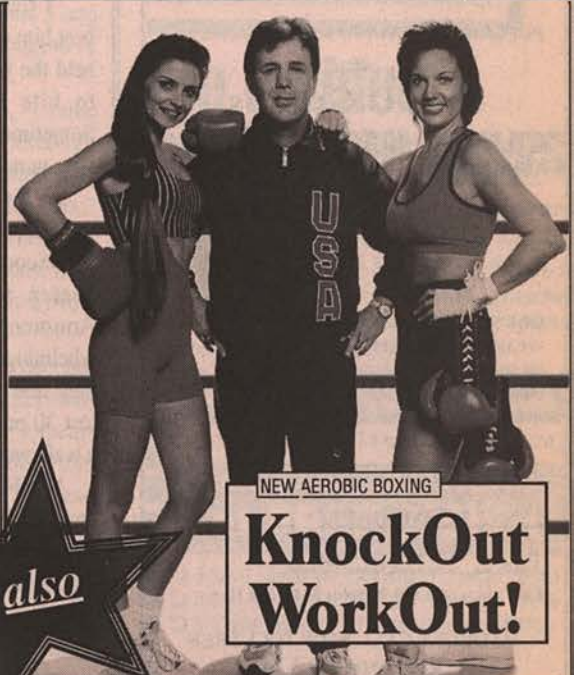

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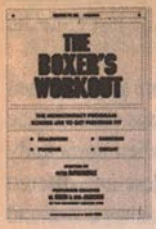

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Freddie Cochrane

(Continued from page 61)

Cochrane picked up his nickname on account of what the boxing magazines liked to describe as his "sorrel-topped head." But the fact is, at one of his early fights the "F" in his first name didn't reproduce, and the announcer introduced him as "Red" Cochrane. "So call yourself 'Freddie "Red" Cochrane,'" Gilzenberg said, and he did.

That was a very different time in boxing. Today's headliners jump right into main-event bouts, but back then, "if you didn't have 15-20 four- and six-round fights, you weren't gonna get nowhere," says Cochrane, who had 25 bouts before going 10 rounds.

He also engaged in 104 fights before he got a crack at the title. That's how it was done then, too. "I was fightin' on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday," he says. And against the best of his era: former world champions Johnny Jadick, Benny Bass, Freddie Miller, Jack "Kid" Berg ("Another tough little bastard I wanted to kill"), and Tippy Larkin.

"I fought him five times and couldn't beat him one," Cochrane says of Larkin, who held the junior welterweight title. "I wanted to bite him, kick him, scratch him. Sometimes there's just somebody who has your number."

As far as biting, kicking, and scratching went, Zivic made Andrew Golota look like a Boy Scout. That's one reason Zivic, who'd beaten triple-crown champion Henry Armstrong for the 147-pound title, was overwhelmingly favored to run over Cochrane in their title match. The other was that Red had lost 30 previous bouts. "They figured it was a walkover for him," says Cochrane.

Nat Fleischer wrote of the bout, "Red crowded Zivic and mixed it with him at close range, blow for blow. Fritzie hadn't expected that, and the ultimate result became obvious even before the 10th round had been reached."

In his dressing room, the new champion was visited by Billy Conn, the light heavyweight champion who'd almost hollered loud enough to be heard in Brooklyn, too, because he'd lost $10,000 betting on friend and fellow Pittsburgher Zivic.

"Never bet against an Irishman," Cochrane told him.

In THE RING's balloting for Fighter of the Year, the new welterweight champion came in third, behind heavyweight titlist Joe Louis and Conn, who'd engaged in their first historic match a month before Cochrane won his title. But Red's ascension from the 39th slot among the welterweights to the world title was voted "the most surprising accomplishment of 1941."

That year, boxing and the world in general were stunned even more by another development: World War II. Cochrane was the first of the reigning world champions to enlist in the armed forces. Later, Louis and middleweight king Tony Zale would follow suit, but neither took the flak for it that was heaped on Red, who, it was said, preferred fighting in a world war to fighting top-ranked welterweight Sugar Ray Robinson.

That drew a rare scathing retort from Fleischer, who editorially enjoined the snipers to "keep in mind that the Elizabeth champion above all is a member of the armed forces of this country, a country at war with the little yellow rats from Japan and the despicable Nazis of Germany. Let no man hurl bricks at a lad who enlisted in the Navy a week after he won the title."

Actually, Cochrane did fight three times in the year after he won the crown, all non-title affairs. His first, in October 1941, was against another of the '40s hell-for-leather characters who made our modern hell-raisers look like altar boys. The press derided Cochrane's fight with lightweight champion Lew Jenkins for its tameness, but Cochrane, who won a decision, recalls it being anything but.

"That skinny little bleep wanted to kill me," he says of Jenkins. "He knocked me down in the second, and I was so out of it that in the corner I asked Willie, 'When's the fight start?'"

"That Jenkins was like this," he says, holding up an index finger to indicate the Texan's slenderness. "I don't know where he got his power from, but, oh, he hit me so hard! I couldn't believe a guy could hit so hard."

Before he met Zivic again in a non-title rematch at Madison Square Garden in September '42, Cochrane got his championship belt from THE RING. Then he got belted pretty good by Zivic, which, while indicating to THE RING reporter Meyer Ackerman that Cochrane "wasn't born to be

a great champion," nevertheless proved something else about him. Wrote Ackerman after the decision win by Zivic, "It will never be said of the gallant New Jersey redhead that he lacks the gumption without which a champion cannot command respect. It was Cochrane's heart that stood out above everything else for all to see."

For the next three years, while Cochrane taught boxing in the Navy, his title, and those of the other servicemen champs, was frozen.

"I made no money with the title," says Red, whose biggest purse in 17 years was $35,000. After the war ended in 1945, they brought him to the Garden to talk about fighting Robinson. Back then, the boxers divvied up 60 percent of the gross gate, and when Robinson adviser George Gainford suggested the champion get 15 percent for his end, Cochrane walked out of the meeting.

On his way outside, he ran into Irving Cohen, who asked if he'd signed for the Robinson bout. Told no, the manager of the hottest young middleweight in the country said, "Good! You wanna fight Rocky? Let's go in and see Mike [Jacobs, the Garden matchmaker]."

"That's how I got Graziano," says Cochrane. "Being in the right place at the right time."

Cochrane was 30, and weighed more than 10 pounds less than the man against whom, in its report of the June 1945, fight, THE RING said, "never gave a better exhibition of the manly art of self-defense in his life." At the end of the ninth round, the welterweight champion led on all scorecards.

But the trouble with fighting Graziano, Cochrane says, was that "when he'd hit you, you'd see that big white light. You're on your way down when you see that light."

Red saw it in the 10th round that night. But it had been such a tremendous fight, they had to do it again. The rematch, before 18,071 fans at the Garden, ended the same way, with Graziano the kayo winner in the 10th, and people taking a different look at Cochrane, who'd been derided as a "cheese champion."

Getting hammered by Graziano was the start of a beautiful friendship between Cochrane and the fighter called "The East Side Dead-End Kid," to whom knocking out people was purely second-nature. Cochrane recalls when he and Rocky filmed an episode of a '50s television show called *Miami Undercover*, during the course of which Graziano would, instead of faking his scripted punches, "hit those stuntmen and knock 'em dead. Then he'd say, 'Don't worry, they'll get up,'" recalls Cochrane.

Seven months after the second Graziano bout, Cochrane was a 13-5 longshot in his first title defense, against Marty Servo.

"I hadn't had many fights and was ring-rusty," says Red, who was stopped in the fourth round. "But he beat me good. The guy was entitled to the title. He whaled the bleep out of me." It was Cochrane's final bout, and THE RING's eulogy was a fitting one: "During his tenure, Cochrane had nothing but pride and a fighting heart."

He has no doubt that would be enough against the opposition around today. "And how! I don't think half these guys fighting now could beat me," says Cochrane, who reserves his ultimate compliment for Oscar De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez: "They, to me, are fighters who coulda fought yesteryear. Other than that, who's around?"

The most appalling thing about boxing today, he says, is what has been done to his old title. "Now you got four champions! I couldn't name you two welterweight champions today. How can you and I and two other guys be considered champion of the world?"

As for himself, says Cochrane, "I came out of the racket pretty good," although most of his ring earnings disappeared long ago on "wine, women, booze, and cars." He had a bar for a while, and worked as a bouncer. Until the move to Wisconsin, he was a doorman and handyman at a New York co-op apartment building.

"I'm not a pauper and I'm not depending on anybody," says the five-times married and divorced Cochrane. He appears healthy enough, but says, "I'm living from day to day. Age is killing me." That and the boredom of life in a city where even the boxing gyms are open only two hours a day. How does he spend his time? "I sit here and think of days gone by," says Cochrane. "And that's no good."

So come spring, the knock-around guy envisions returning to the Big Apple.

"Here, I'm dyin'," says the former champion of the world, twiddling his thumbs. ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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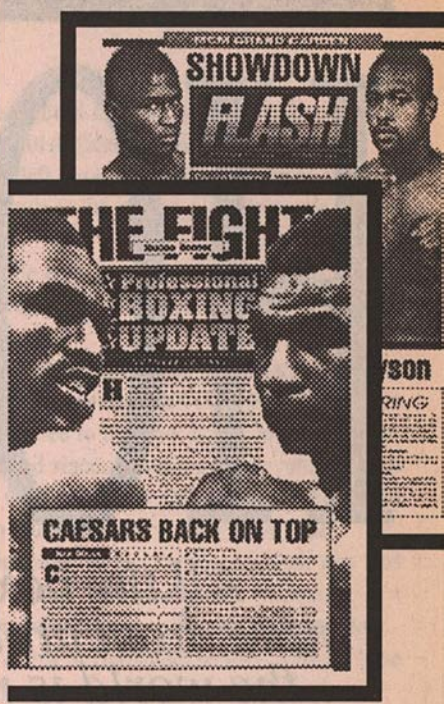

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FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

The Genaro Hernandez-Azumah Nelson junior lightweight title fight is history, but several bothersome questions remain that need answers here and now, and before certain difficult situations arise again.

As the record book will attest, Nelson delivered a damaging left hook to Hernandez' throat after the bell ending the seventh round. Hernandez was severely hurt. He went down to the canvas and, apparently unable to arise on his own, was ultimately propped up by his cornermen.

As replays indicated, there was no doubt Nelson had struck after the bell. In attendance at ringside, WBC President Jose Sulaiman confirmed that the blow was illegal, and referee Laurence Cole immediately deducted a point, as specified by the WBC rules, from Nelson's score.

Instead of Nelson being immediately disqualified and the fight terminated, Hernandez was informed that he could 1) instantly become the new champion by DQ, or 2) take time to recuperate from the punch and decide whether to continue—and risk the consequences. Foolishly, Hernandez opted to fight on. It was foolish because as sportsmanlike as his decision was, prizefighting is still a business, and since, according to the rules, he had been the victim of a foul, he had every right to assume the throne then and there. Only 24 hours earlier in Atlantic City, Montell Griffin had become a champion by virtue of two foul blows delivered by Roy Jones.

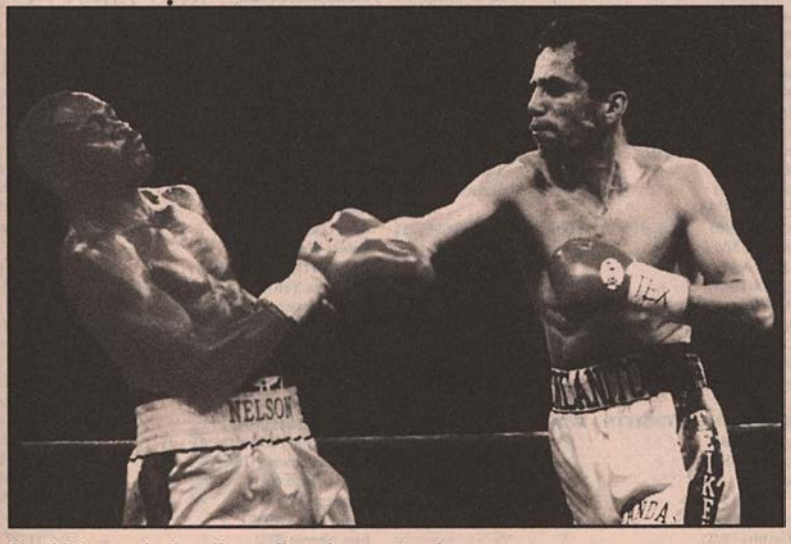
Now, the question to be answered: If Hernandez suffered a knockout blow, as it certainly appeared, why was he permitted to fight on? I'm sure Texas, like most states, has a rule calling for the automatic suspension of a knockout victim for anywhere from 30 to 90 days. Such fighters are generally banned even from gym workouts.

When is a knockout not a knockout? At the time, nobody knew the extent of Hernandez' injury. It might have been serious, and continuing to fight might have aggravated the damage.

Another gripe about the fight that bothered me big-time: I've always held Nelson in high regard and was appalled by his foul blow, which I now feel was planned. It was obvious to all present, except for two of the three judges, that after six rounds, "The Professor" was so far behind that only a knockout or a disabling blow would turn the fight around.

I've witnessed Nelson knocking out an opponent (legally) in the first round—Pat Cowdell in Birmingham, England, in 1985—with a well-placed punch to the throat. He's capable of that, no question.

And isn't it about time disciplinary action or abrupt dismissal be handed down to ring officials who don't have a clue as to what's going on? After boxing Nelson's ears off for the first 10 rounds, Hernandez and the Texas audience were appalled to hear the ring announcer proclaim a split decision. One judge, Gale Van Hoy, had it for Nelson by one point, while another, Alfred Asaro, voted for Hernandez by two. Only the deserved eight-point margin for Hernandez on the card of the third judge, Richie Davies, prevented an injustice that would have rivaled the verdict handed then-junior lightweight champion Alfredo Escalera over Tyrone Everett in 1976.



Should Hernandez have been allowed to continue?

It was a horrid weekend for title fight officials. Referee Tony Perez, who botched the ending of Griffin-Jones because of his penchant for staying too far away from the fighters, has been raked too severely for me to add any more abuse. But I will say, "Enough is enough, Tony. Time to retire. Are you listening, Larry Hazzard?" ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of January 1997, the IBF ratings as of March 1997, and the WBC ratings as of April 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	10	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Akinwande (GB)	1	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	9	9
David Tua (NZ)	3	–	7
Orlin Norris (USA)	4	4	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	5	7	–
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	8
Tony Tucker (USA)	7	5	10
Corrie Sanders (SA)	8	–	3
John Ruiz (USA)	9	–	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	10	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	–	1	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	–	2	2
Francois Botha (SA)	–	3	4
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	6	5
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Obed Sullivan (USA)	18	–	6

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	7	–
Torsten May (GER)	3	9	6
Johnny Nelson (GB)	4	–	–
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	5	4	12
Terry Dunstan (GB)	6	5	10
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	8	–	–
Chris Okoh (GB)	9	–	11
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	10	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	1	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	2	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	–	3	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	26	6	1
Rick Lamontagne (USA)	–	8	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	10	5
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	25	–	4
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	7
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	22	–	8
David Izeqwire (NIG)	–	12	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Montell Griffin (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	C
Roy Jones (USA)	1	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	5	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	3	1	6
William Guthrie (USA)	4	2	1
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	5	–	5
Crawford Ashley (GB)	6	–	4
Merqui Sosa (DR)	7	8	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	8	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	9	–	11
Mark Prince (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	3	3
Leif Keiski (SWE)	30	4	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	6	–
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	18	7	–
Darrin Allen (USA)	25	9	2
Mike McCallum (USA)	–	10	–
Ray Berry (USA)	26	–	7
Frank Tate (USA)	–	–	8
John Scully (USA)	–	–	9
Richard Frazier (USA)	12	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	2	3
Thulane Malinga (SA)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	8	11
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	6	–	5
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	7	6	4
Chris Johnson (CAN)	8	11	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	9	10	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	10	3	2
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	–	1	10
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	16	4	6
Tim Littles (USA)	–	5	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	7	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	15	9	1
Tony Byrd (USA)	29	–	7
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	8

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	10	6
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	4	6	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	5	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	6	–	2
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	8	5	8
Brian Barbosa (USA)	9	7	7
Glenn Catley (GB)	10	–	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	12	1	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	21	2	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	11	3	5
Otis Grant (CAN)	–	4	11
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	8	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	24	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	30	–	4
Andrew Council (USA)	–	12	9
Rogerio Cacciatore (BRA)	22	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	1	9	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	2	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	3	7	12
Said Bennajem (FRA)	4	–	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	5	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	6	–	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	7	6	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	8	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	9	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	10	1	2
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	2	4
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	–	4	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	5	1
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	8	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	3
Steve Foster (GB)	–	–	5
Mark Breland (USA)	–	–	6
Don Stokes (USA)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	19	–	8
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	9
Jairo Siris (COL)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	2	1
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	5	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	3	10	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	4	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	5	–	–
Robert West (USA)	6	–	–
Diobelys Hurtado (CUBA)	7	–	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	8	–	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	9	–	–
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	10	–	12
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	20	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	10
Andrew Murray (GUY)	21	6	7
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Romallis Ellis (USA)	–	8	–
Tony Martin (USA)	12	9	4
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	3
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6
Juan Negron (PR)	–	11	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–

Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	11
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	5	8	3
Charles Murray (USA)	6	6	7
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	7	4	2
Walter Crucce (ARG)	8	–	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	9	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	10	–	9
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	3	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	5	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	7	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	9	5
Bisao Arai (JAP)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	4
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	6
Vernon Forrest (USA)	15	–	8
Jose Cordoba (PAN)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	5	–
Ornubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	6	12
Leavander Johnson (USA)	4	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	5	3	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	8	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	9	–	5
Marco Rudolph (GER)	10	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	3
Angel Mona (FRA)	12	2	–
Carlos Fernandez (PORT)	–	4	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	18	7	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	8	4
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	26	9	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	–	10	9
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	1
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	17	11	2
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Luis Flores (COL)	25	–	7
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	8
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	7	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	9
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	3	6	1
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	4	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	5	8	8
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	–	10
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	7	9	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	8	–	–
Jorge Paez (MEX)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	5	11
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	2
Harold Warren (USA)	19	–	3
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	4
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	7

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	11	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	2	9
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	3	11	4
Ever Beleno (COL)	4	9	5
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	5	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	6	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	7	–	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	8	10	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	9	–	–
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	10	–	6
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	–	1	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	7
Rafael Meran (DR)	–	4	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	26	5	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	6	–
Tony Wehbe (INDO)	–	7	–
Roque Cassiani (COL)	–	8	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	3
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	8
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	2	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	4	–	–
Martin Krastev (BUL)	5	5	7
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	6	7	12
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	7	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	8	–	–
Arnel Barotillo (AUSTRL)	9	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	1	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	3	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	4	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	6	–
Serge Poilbian (FRA)	13	8	–
Enrique Angeles (MEX)	–	9	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	10	–
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	3
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	4
Vincent Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	5
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	6
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	8
Angel Chacon (PR)	14	–	9
Rey Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	2	8	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	3	6	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	4	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	5	–	6
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	6	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	11	–
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	8	9	–
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	9	–	7
Javier Campanario (SPA)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	4	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	5	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	7	1
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	10	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	21	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	19	–	3
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	4
Wilson Alcorro (COL)	–	–	5
Adan Vargas (MEX)	11	–	8
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	5	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	7	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	2	–	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	10	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	5	12	9
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	3	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	7	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	9	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	1	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	2	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	4	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	6	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	15	8	8
Andy Agosto (PR)	13	9	4
Vacant	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	16	–	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	26	–	7
Wilfredo Vargas (PR)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	13	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	3	9
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	1
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	3	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	4	8	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	5	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	6	–	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	7	5	8
Paul Weir (GB)	8	–	–
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	9	11	–
Peter Culshaw (GB)	10	4	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	14	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	–	6	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	28	7	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	–	9	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	10	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Ilido Julio (COL)	25	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	–
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	11
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	4	8	6
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	5	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	6	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	7	10	–
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	8	–	7
Ramon Euroza (MEX)	9	–	–
Julio Coronel (COL)	10	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	2	5
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	3	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	15	4	–
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	5	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	6	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	7	2
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	3
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	–	8
Juan Cordoba (ARG)	–	–	9
Eric Griffin (USA)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	–	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	7	2
Morgan Ndumo (SA)	5	–	–
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	6	10	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	7	–	–
Lindi Memani (SA)	8	–	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	9	–	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	3	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	5	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Fah Sung Ponasawang (THAI)	–	8	–
Pongsaklek Sithanonsak (THAI)	30	9	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	11	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	12	–	4
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	–	5
Luis Doria (COL)	–	–	6
Wellington Vicente (BRA)	–	–	8
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	–	9
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	23	–	10

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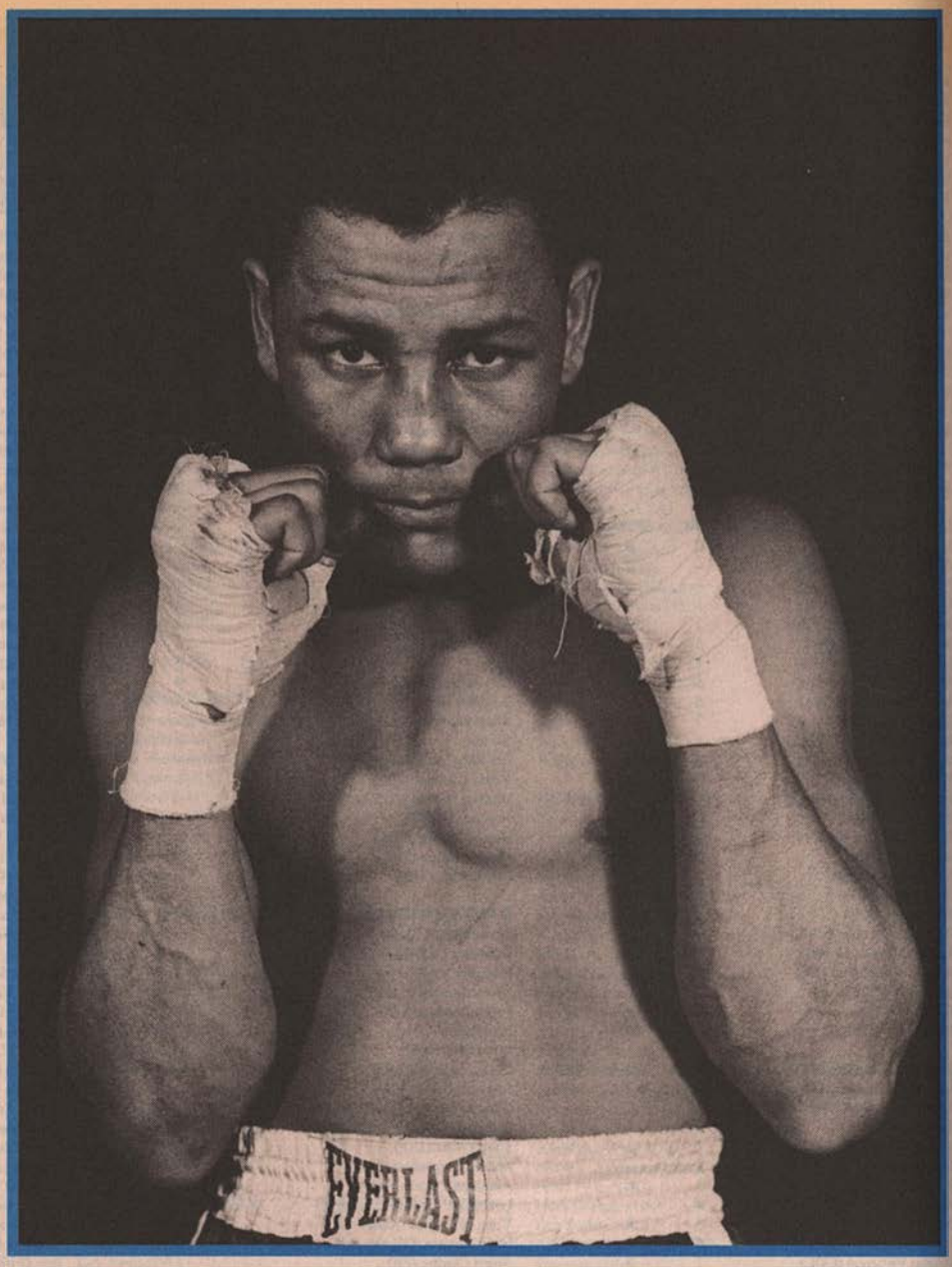


JOSE TORRES: PUERTO RICO'S NEW HERO

Chegui Snares Fame, Title, But Has Yet To Cash In

From THE RING, July 1965

By **Mario Rivera Martino**

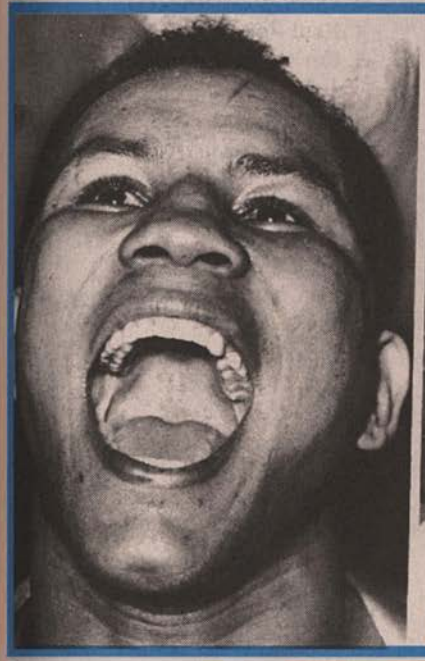
Playa de Ponce, Puerto Rico—It is a little after midnight in this quiet little fishing village on the southern coast of Puerto Rico. Under normal conditions, lights are out at 9 p.m. Folks are up early for their daily chores.

But this is a big event for them, the biggest that has hit the town. Don Andre's son, Jose (Chegui) Torres, has just been acclaimed light heavyweight champion of the world by virtue of a knockout victory over Willie Pastrano.

The town is in an uproar, with an impromptu symphony composed of car horns, church bells, a steel band, clanging empty cans, and a chorus of screaming fanaticos celebrating the victory of its native son, who finally has made good after so many years of frustration and disappointment.

The new champion has vindicated himself. Despite current demonstrations indicating his popularity in his homeland, Torres had been derogated following his kayo loss on May 26, 1963, at the hands of Florentino Fernandez in five rounds, his only defeat to date.

Critical Puerto Rican fans felt that Torres had unnecessarily folded up before the heavy-fisted barrage of Fernandez. They did not take into consideration that Jose had seen action in only one bout during the course of a year. This one bout was against an unknown quantity, Al Hauser, who suffered a kayo in three rounds.



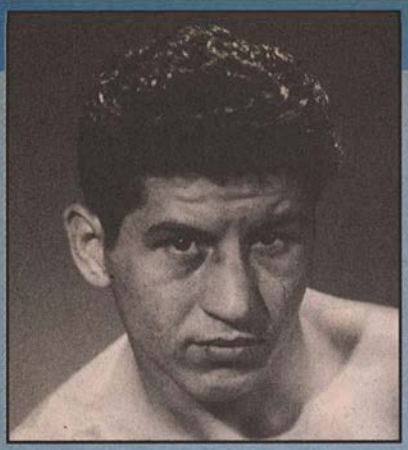
Torres wrested the world light heavyweight title from Willie Pastrano at Madison Square Garden in March 1965 (above). Torres stopped Pastrano in the ninth round. Afterward, the faces of the fighters told the story of the bout (left).

"You don't fight until I tell you to," Cus D'Amato had ordered, and Chegui had obeyed. Cus was hunting for the middleweight title.

Fernandez was the first to admit that Torres had him on Queer Street

New York's Puerto Rican fans went wild for Torres. Dismissed by many as a blown-up middleweight, Torres used the pet combinations taught to him by Cus D'Amato to chop down the defending titlist.

THE RING RATINGS, *July 1965*



Joey Giardello

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Cassius Clay, Louisville, KY
1. **Sonny Liston**, Denver, CO
2. **Floyd Patterson**, Great Neck, NY
3. **Ernest Terrell**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **George Chuvalo**, Toronto, Ontario
5. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
6. **Karl Mildenberger**, Germany
7. **Thad Spencer**, Tacoma, WA
8. **Eddie Machen**, Berkeley, CA
9. **Roger Rischer**, San Francisco, CA
10. **Amos Johnson**, Medina, OH

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico
1. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina
2. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami Beach, FL
3. **Mauro Mina**, Peru
4. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
6. **Wayne Thornton**, Fresno, CA
7. **Bob Foster**, Washington, D.C.
8. **Roger Rouse**, San Jose, CA
9. **Gert (Hotty) Van Heerden**, South Africa
10. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Giardello, Cherry Hill, NJ
1. **Joey Archer**, New York, NY
2. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
3. **Rubin Carter**, Passaic, NJ
4. **Laszlo Papp**, Hungary
5. **Nino Benvenuti**, Italy
6. **Sandro Mazzinghi**, Italy
7. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
8. **Hurricane Kid**, Samoa
9. **Gomeo Brennan**, Bahamas, BWI
10. **Harry Scott**, England

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, Weehawken, NJ
1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami, FL
2. **Manuel Gonzales**, Odessa, TX
3. **Willie Ludick**, South Africa
4. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
5. **Jose Stable**, New York, NY
6. **Fortunata Manca**, Italy
7. **Gabriel Terronez**, Fresno, CA
8. **Billy Collins**, Nashville, TN
9. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
10. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Hernandez, Venezuela
1. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
2. **Jose Napoles**, Mexico
3. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
4. **Tito Marshall**, Panama
5. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
6. **Pierro Brandi**, Italy
7. **Luis Molina**, San Jose, CA
8. **Johnny DePieza**, Trinidad, BWI
9. **Olli Maki**, Finland
10. **Paul Fujii**, Honokulu, HI

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ismael Laguna, Panama
1. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
2. **Bunny Grant**, Jamaica, BWI
3. **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina
4. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
6. **Angel Robinson Garcia**, France
7. **Alfredo Urbina**, Mexico
8. **Franco Brondi**, Italy
9. **Frankie Narvaez**, New York, NY
10. **Conny Rudhof**, Germany

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Gabriel (Flash) Elorde, Philippines
1. **Johnny Bizzarro**. Erie, PA
2. **Willi Quatuor**, Germany
3. **Love Allotey**, Ghana
4. **Teruo Kosaka**, Japan
5. **Vicente Derado**, Argentina
6. **Kang Suh Il**, South Korea
7. **Jose Luis Cruz**, Mexico
8. **Ray Adigun**, Nigeria
9. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Levi Madi**, South Africa

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vicente Saldivar, Mexico
1. **Misunori Seki**, Japan
2. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
3. **Floyd Robertson**, Ghana
4. **Raul Rojas**, San Pedro, CA
5. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina
6. **Jaime Valladares**, Ecuador
7. **Antonio Herrera**, Colombia
8. **Joe Rafiu King**, Nigeria
9. **Yves Desmarets**, France
10. **Don Johnson**, Los Angeles, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eder Jofre, Brazil
1. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
2. **Jesus Pimental**, Mexico
3. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
4. **Bernardo Caraballo**, Colombia
5. **Manuel Barrios**, Mexico
6. **Alan Rudkin**, England
7. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
8. **Katsuo Saito**, Japan
9. **Felix Brami**, Tunisia
10. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland

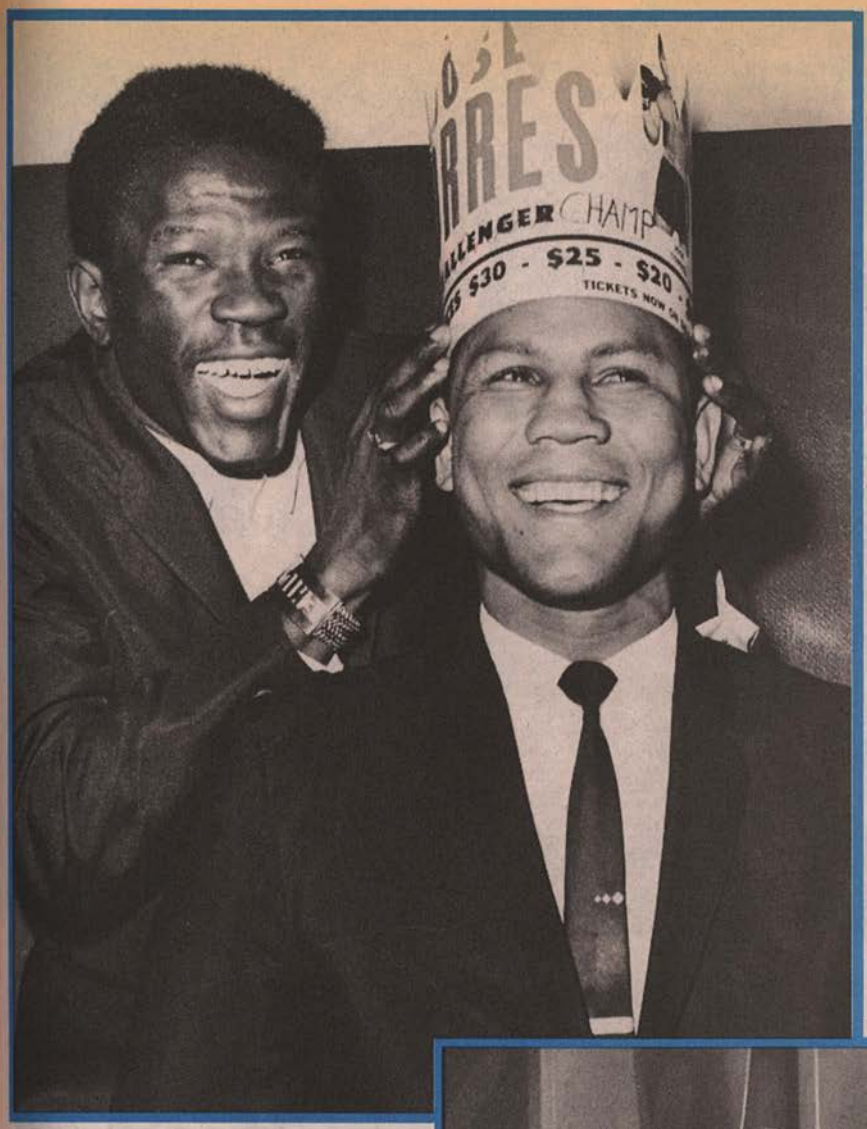
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Salvatore Burruni, Italy
1. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
2. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
3. **Efran (Alacran) Torres**, Mexico
4. **Horacio Accavallo**, Argentina
5. **Takeshi Nakamura**, Japan
6. **Walter McGowan**, Scotland
7. **Rocky Gattellari**, Australia
8. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua
9. **Bob Allotey**, Ghana
10. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan

early in the bout, and that if Jose had been able to follow up, the result might have been different.

Bursting with confidence born of being a world champion, Torres now feels he can take on anyone in the world. This includes Cassius Clay, as well as Jose's former stablemate, Floyd Patterson.

"I'm the champ now, Mario. When I step into the ring now, I'll feel different, more positive. It's not the same when you're the champ," Torres said following his victory over Pastrano.

Torres, who is a sports columnist



Welterweight champion Emile Griffith, who co-headlined the show by scoring a unanimous 15-round decision against Jose Stable, "crowns" Torres the day after the fight.

for the Spanish paper *El Diario*, devours all articles about boxing, and his comments are logical and to the point.

Jose's inclination toward the newspaper business was shown the day after the Pastrano fight. Following a press conference in the Garden, he headed for *El Diario*, where the employees greeted him with "vivas."

Cain Young and Johnny Manzanet were with Jose. Trainer Manzanet was responsible for getting Torres into the best condition of his life. The only innovation in Torres' training schedule was an apparatus invented by D'Amato in which Torres' speed in the delivery of his blows was measured by the steady staccato on the heavybag.

The bag was sub-divided to denote the different parts of the body, and in such a way that if Manzanet called out any number, or specific combination of numbers, Torres would concentrate on that part of the body.

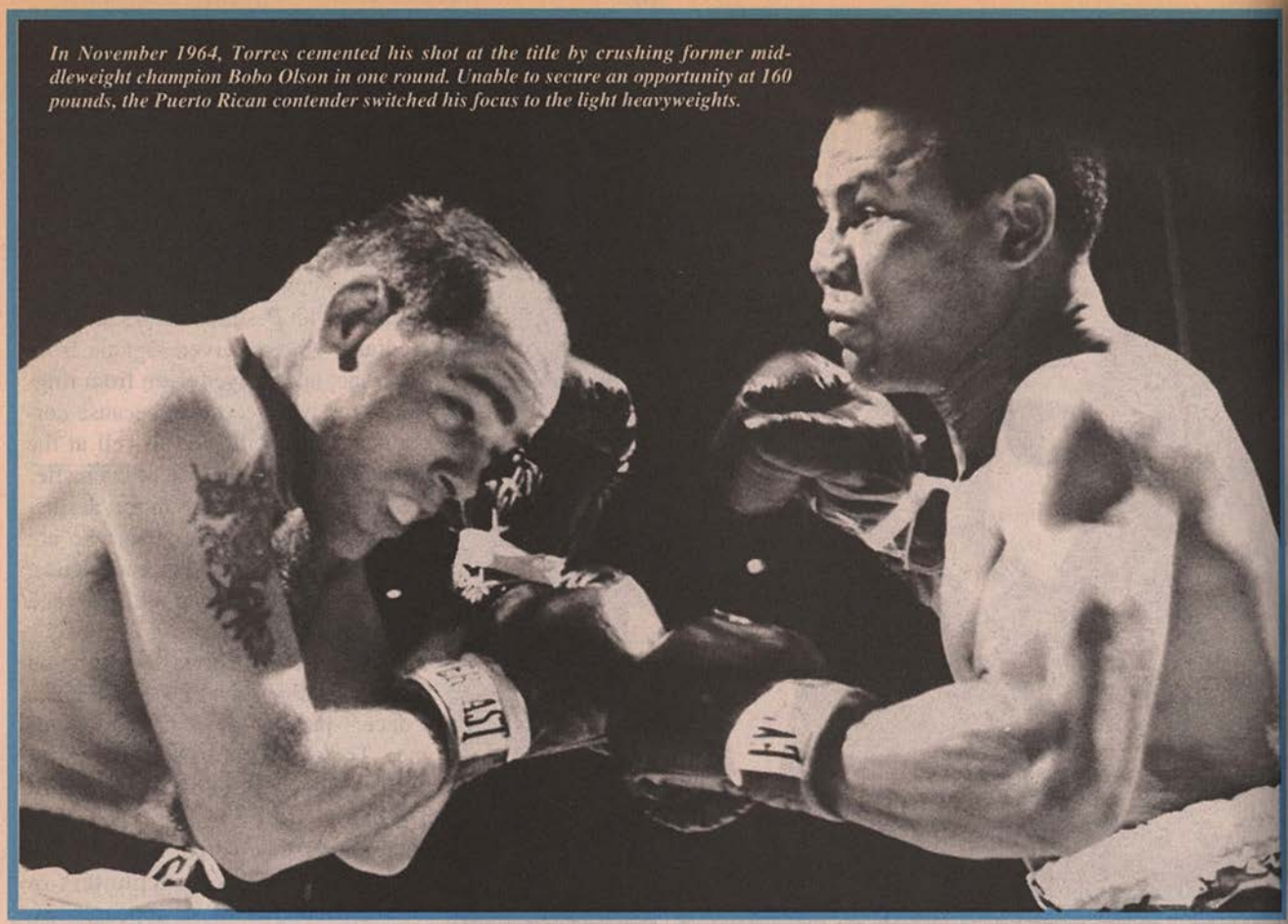
This system was used effectively in the fight with Pastrano, using an intermediary, who received signals from Manzanet and relayed them from ringside. This was necessary because cornermen are not allowed to yell at the fighters during the course of the battle.

The latest key figure in the destiny of Torres is Young, the man who not only gave Torres needed confidence, but saw to it that he had all he needed to start anew.

From here on, Torres should be on the gravy train. Torres has yet to make a decent payday under his new guidance. To get the Bobo Olson match, he had to guarantee Bobo $10,000 out of a gross take of $12,500. The only good purses that Torres had obtained were from his three encounters in Puerto Rico. For these appearances, against Benny Paret, Duilio Nunez, and Fernandez, Jose earned $30,000.

Had Torres failed against Pastrano, you think he would've been asked to sing on ***The Ed Sullivan Show****? The light heavyweight champ's performance came less than two weeks after he was crowned.*

In November 1964, Torres cemented his shot at the title by crushing former middleweight champion Bobo Olson in one round. Unable to secure an opportunity at 160 pounds, the Puerto Rican contender switched his focus to the light heavyweights.

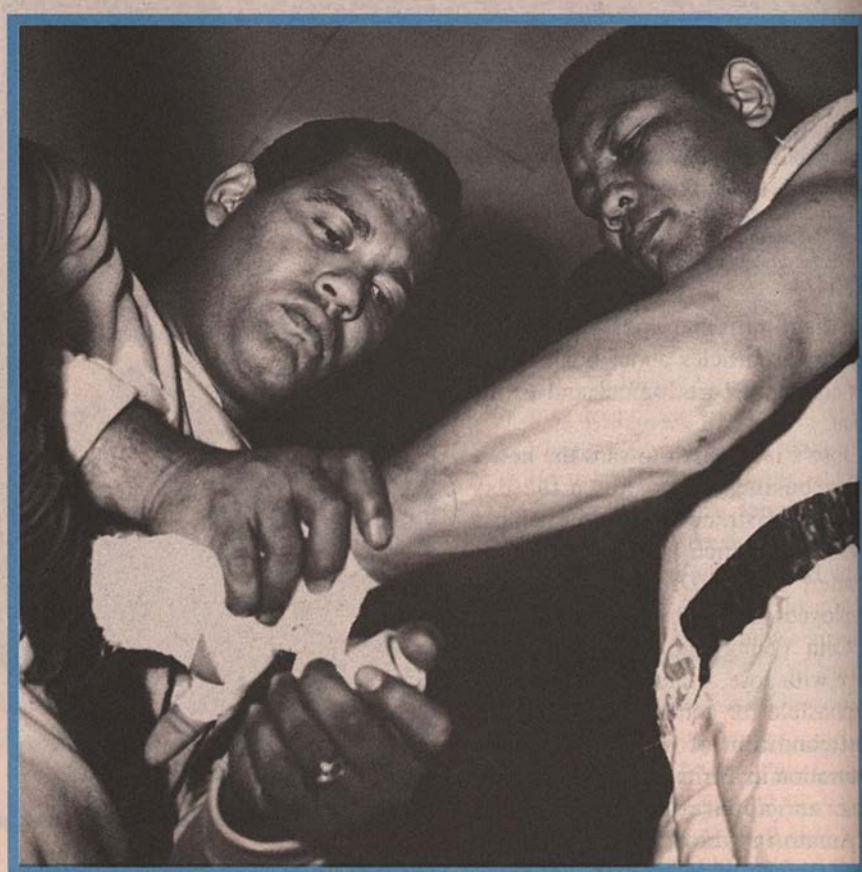


D'Amato, who had managed Patterson into millions, tried to borrow $100,000 with which to land Jose a middleweight title shot. But nobody was willing to listen, least of all Patterson. The old D'Amato-Patterson entente had collapsed.

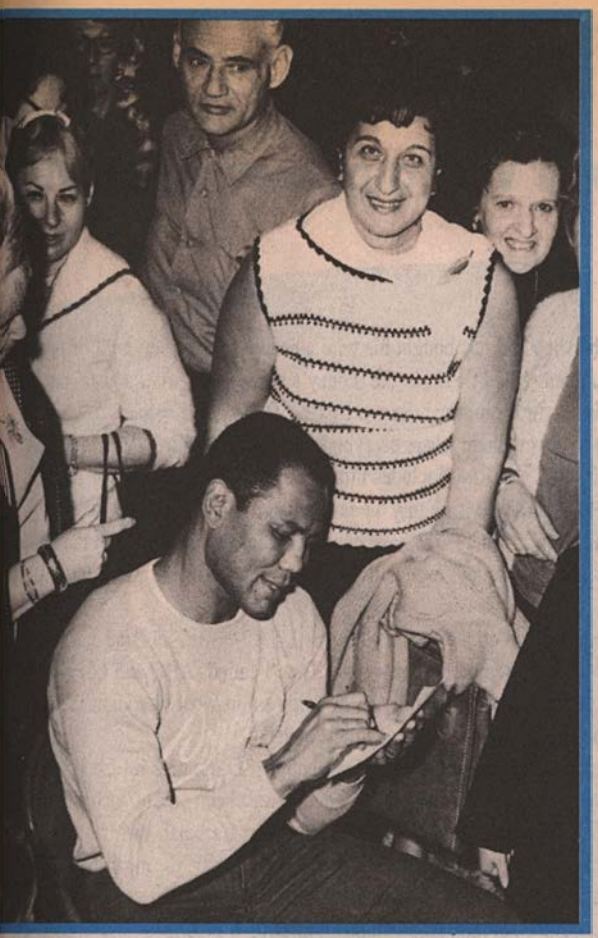
The fight with Pastrano made Torres the light heavyweight champion of the world. But in so far as money was concerned, it was a grand carnival for Willie, who may now retire and devote himself to the milk business in Miami.

Torres, through real estate tycoon Young of Brooklyn, guaranteed Pastrano $100,000. It developed that Torres had also turned over to Willie virtually the entire residue which ordinarily would have gone to Chegui.

Now it turns out that Torres sold



Trainer Johnny Manzanet prepares Torres for a gym workout. During the Pastrano fight, Manzanet used an intermediary to shout signals to the light heavyweight, and it clearly worked. Manzanet deserves credit for working Torres into the best condition of his career.



Friendly and well-spoken, Torres is among the most popular champions in boxing. Like almost every light heavyweight titlist before him, he's looking forward to squaring off against bigger opponents, such as Floyd Patterson and Muhammad Ali.

certain managerial rights to the Dundee brothers of Miami. They paid him $25,000 for the privilege of promoting his first title defense, and perhaps the contract gives the Dundees other rights as well.

Torres says he would like to buy out of the contract. But the question is, are they of similar mind?

Contract or no contract, where does Torres go from here? For a light heavyweight champion to cash in handsomely on the title would be extraordinary. Which way, Chegui? Man does not live on fame alone.

Another thing: The championship came to Torres near his 29th birthday. He was born on May 3, 1936, in Playa de Ponce. Another May and he will be 30.

There have been parties galore for Jose. He appeared on the Ed Sullivan program not so long ago and acquitted himself well as a singer. But he is not the kind of performer who could rely on that sort of way of making a living.

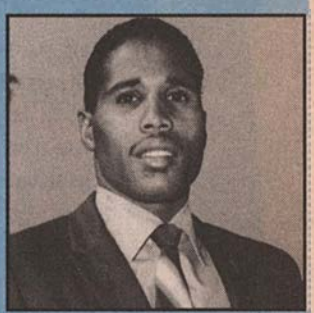
Carlos Ortiz, Puerto Rico's other ring hero, lost his lightweight championship at a very bad time. To locally counterbalance Jose's success against Pastrano, Carlos needed an emphatic victory over Ismael Laguna. But Ortiz was beaten, and with Torres now number one, Carlos slipped into the Puerto Rican fistic background. ■

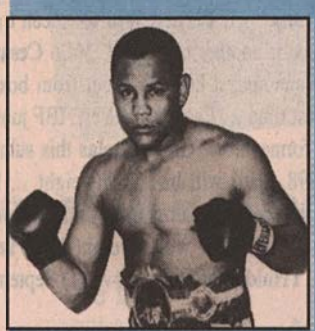
THE RING, July 1965

The Cover: Do you think Jose Torres' title-winning TKO of light heavyweight champion Willie Pastrano was popular with the fans at Madison Square Garden? After halting Pastrano in nine, Torres was carried from the ring by his Puerto Rican supporters.

Tunney's View: Former heavyweight champion Gene Tunney, 67, spoke with THE RING's Al Buck from his office in the Pan-Am Building. Asked what he thought of heavyweight champion Muhammad (Cassius Clay) Ali, Tunney said, "I consider Clay a good amateur. I mean he makes amateurish moves. Clay leans back with his hands dangling almost to his knees. He won the title too soon."

New Lightweight Champ: In winning the lightweight title from Carlos Ortiz, Ismael Laguna became the first world champion from Panama since Panama Al Brown. Laguna was far too speedy for the rusty Ortiz, who, on one card, won only two rounds. A rematch is likely.





Movin' On Up: Jersey Jones examines the fighters who, either because of ambition or problems on the scale, have moved up in weight. The latest success story: Newly crowned light heavyweight champion Jose Torres (pictured), a blown-up middleweight who couldn't secure a title shot at 160 pounds.

Fighter Of The Month: Italy's Salvatore Burruni is rewarded for winning the world flyweight title from Pone Kingpetch. A veteran who turned pro in 1957, Burruni gave up the European title in order to fight Kingpetch.

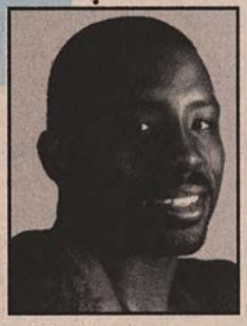
LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

FLY THE COOP

IBF flyweight champion Mark Johnson owns a barbershop and just bought his wife a beauty salon. Soon he'll be opening up a pair of fish and chicken stores. Given the cost of nail polish and flounder, the money's been going out at a faster rate than it's been coming in. So "Too Sharp" decided to leave his longtime promoter, Forum Boxing, for Cedric Kushner.

"I need more exposure," explained Johnson. "I want to get out there where everybody in the world knows Mark Johnson."



"Too Sharp" moves on

No one doubts Johnson's talents. In fact, THE RING includes him in our pound-for-pound top 10. Still, it ain't easy selling an American flyweight. But maybe it's a tiny bit easier than it used to be.

"Over the last 18 months," said Kushner, "the networks have been doing extremely well with the smaller guys. The little guys are much more accepted today, especially if they can punch like Mark and Danny Romero.

"The moment my deal was concluded, I was on the phone with [the USA Network's] Brad Jacobs, who said to me, 'I've been waiting to put Mark Johnson on for two years.' Then I called [ABC and ESPN's] Bob Yalen, who said, 'I've wanted to use that guy for a long time.' I'm going to do what I thought the Forum should've done: Give Mark Johnson the exposure to make him a little superstar."

For that to happen, Johnson will need to land a superfight or two. Number one on his hit list is Michael Carbajal, who's shown no inclination to rise from junior flyweight. There hasn't been talk of such a bout, but Johnson is encouraged by the fact that Kushner and Bob Arum, who promotes Carbajal, were able to work together to make the upcoming Romero-Johnny Tapia battle. Johnson would also like to partly unify vs. Japan-based WBC flyweight champion Yuri Arbachakov, but economics and politics will continue to block such a matchup.

In the meantime, look for Johnson on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights* and HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. As the fans at the Great Western Forum have known for years, Too Sharp is not only the best 112-pounder in the world, but also the most fun to watch. If anyone deserves a wider audience, he does.

LISTEN UP

On July 18, former junior flyweight champion **Michael Carbajal** will take on 4'10" South African **Baby Jake Matlala**. Carbajal is heading toward a rematch with IBF champion **Mauricio Pastrana** ... If **Pernell Whitaker** can't secure a rematch with **Oscar De La Hoya**, his second choice is another old friend, **Julio Cesar Chavez** ... Just before we went to press, **Riddick Bowe** announced his retirement from boxing. Marines or no Marines, he may have fought for the last time ... East meets West: IBF junior lightweight champion **Arturo Gatti** will defend against former titlist **Gabe Ruelas** this summer. **Pat Lynch**, the champion's manager, said that by 1998, Gatti will be a lightweight ... It's official: WBC heavyweight champion **Lennox Lewis** will defend against **Henry Akinwande** on July 12 in Atlantic City ... The showdown between WBC super welterweight king **Terry Norris** and welterweight boss **Felix Trinidad** has been moved to September 6.

Gatti: Looking at Ruelas

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Frank Liles	Steve Collins	2-1	Collins is tough, but Liles very underrated
Michael Carbajal	Jake Matlala	7-5	Tough, competitive fight
Junior Jones	Daniel Zaragoza	9-5	Zaragoza has to run out of miracles soon
Junior Jones	Wayne McCullough	2½-1	Jones may be unbeatable at 122
Phillip Holiday	Shane Mosley	Pick 'em	Jury still out on both
Arturo Gatti	Gabe Ruelas	2½-1	Gatti's best days ahead; not so for Gabe

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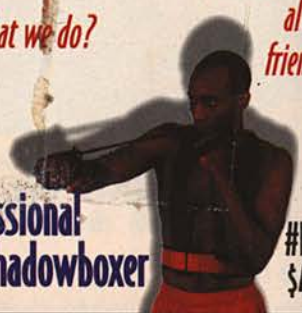

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